



"It is something great and greatening to cherish an ideal; to act in the light of truth that is far-away and far above; to set aside the near advantage, the momentary pleasure; the snatching of seeming good to self; and to act for remoter ends, for higher good, and for interests other than our own."

– JOSHUA LAWRENCE CHAMBERLAIN

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The ANGLE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

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



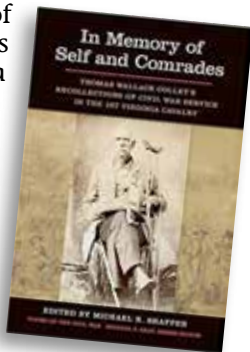
Impending Actions

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

SEPTEMBER 26TH

THOMAS W. COLLEY'S CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCE IN THE 1ST VA CAVALRY

Thomas W. Colley served in one of the most active and famous units in the Civil War, the 1st Virginia Cavalry, which fought in battles from First Manassas/Bull Run to the defense of Petersburg. In May 1861, along with the other members of the Washington Mounted Rifles, Colley left his home in Washington County, Virginia, and reported to camp in Richmond. During the war, he received wounds on three different occasions: first at Waterloo Bridge in 1862, again at Kelly's Ford in 1863, and finally at Haw's Shop in 1864. The wound received at Haw's Shop resulted in the amputation of his left foot, thereby ending his wartime service.



Historian Michael K. Shaffer will discuss the fascinating story of Colley's life, and have copies of his newest book, *In Memory of Self and Comrades: Thomas Wallace Colley's Recollections of Civil War Service in the 1st Virginia Cavalry* available for purchase after the program.

A Civil War historian, author, newspaper columnist, instructor, and battlefield guide, **MICHAEL SHAFFER** remains a member of the Society of Civil War Historians, Historians of the Civil War Western Theater, Georgia Association of Historians, and Georgia Writers Association. He serves as president of the Friends of Camp McDonald and on the board of the Cobb County Civil War Roundtable. Shaffer holds BA and MA degrees, with honors in Military History – Civil War Studies. He frequently lectures to various groups, currently teaches Civil War courses at Kennesaw State University's College of Continuing and Professional Education and at Emory University.

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OCTOBER 24TH

THE WAR OUTSIDE MY WINDOW: THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF LEROY WILEY GRESHAM, 1860-1865

Invalid teenager LeRoy Wiley Gresham left a seven-volume diary spanning the years of secession and the Civil War (1860-1865). He was just 12 when he began and he died at 17, just weeks after the war ended. His remarkable account spans the gamut of life events that were of interest to a precocious and well-educated Southern teenager—including military, political, religious, social, and literary matters of the day. This alone ranks it as an important contribution to our understanding of life and times in the Old South. But it is much more than that. Chronic disease and suffering stalk the young writer, who is never told he is dying until just before his death.

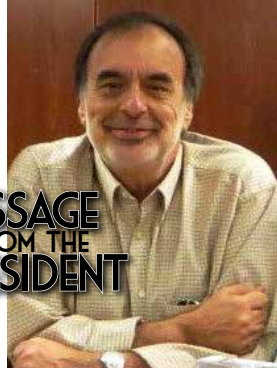
His diary is also the only known account of the Civil War from the perspective of a young male non-combatant. These five years of detailed entries make LeRoy's diary an exceedingly rare (and perhaps unique) social history from the nineteenth century. LeRoy's diary offers an inside look at a fateful journey that robbed an energetic and likeable young man of his youth and life.

JANET E. CROON holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Modern European History, and Russian Language and Area Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1983), and a Master's Degree in International Studies from the University of Dayton (1985). She has been teaching International Baccalaureate History for nearly two decades and developed a deep interest in the Civil War by living in northern Virginia. This is her first book.



Greetings to all...

After a last minute thunderstorm caused postponement of our August 22 East Cavalry Field tour, we tried again on the 29th and were rewarded with a beautiful evening, Chris Army leading us in the footsteps of George Custer, JEB Stuart and a Confederate called Claw Hammer. I thought this was particularly interesting: I knew that earlier in the war the Cavaliers had run circles around their Federal counterparts. As Chris explained, the southern men had brought their own horses and the rapport between rider and mount was a big advantage against troops on army-issued transport. But by Brandy Station, a lot of those horses from home were dead, the rebels mounted on substitutes, the odds shifted accordingly.



MESSAGE
FROM THE
PRESIDENT

BY BRUCE DAVIS

I spent a goodly amount of time with George Custer and Chris Army this summer. In August, Chris and Jim Hessler, both Licensed Battlefield Guides, co-hosted a symposium, "George Armstrong Custer and the Indian Wars." Having a long-time personal interest in the subject matter, I was delighted by the quality of the presentations. If Jim and Chris offer a follow-up next year, I would highly recommend it.

The aforementioned Hessler, himself a member of the Roundtable, led us through the Peach Orchard in June. In addition to his book, *Gettysburg's Peach Orchard: Longstreet, Sickles, and the Bloody Fight for 'Commanding Ground*, you might also check out his "Battle of Gettysburg" podcasts. After two episodes on the Peach Orchard action, the latest posting is "WTH Was Lee Thinking?"

Back to Custer: I crossed his path again at Blue Ridge Summit, trying to understand the Battle of Monterey Pass. I was fortunate to find Joe Mieczkowski at the Visitor Center's docent desk. Joe's book *After Gettysburg: Lee Retreats, Meade Pursues* is enormously helpful in appreciating events of the Confederate withdrawal through this rugged region; Custer, of course, playing a major role in the stormy clash on the night of July 4.

Speaking of companion books. Those who attended our June gathering at the Cannon Shop may want to check out Roundtable member Brad Gottfried's *The Artillery of Gettysburg*, available on Amazon.

We're back inside the G.A.R. Hall this month. On Thursday evening, September 26, we'll hear from Michael K. Shaffer, who teaches history at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. His talk is titled "In Memory of Self and Comrades," the story of Thomas Wallace Colley's service with the 1st Virginia Cavalry. Over the course of the war, the 1st Virginia was involved in 200+ actions, including the July 3 Cavalry charge on the ground toured last night.

On October 24, Janet Croon will be with us, sharing her well-reviewed book, *The War Outside My Window: The Civil War Diary of Leroy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865*. According to William C. Davis, Croon's study "is really a window looking into the thoughts and perceptions of a doomed teenager watching the Confederacy die even as he was dying

himself." The evening will include presentation of the Cal Doucette Achievement Award.

As we go into our fall programming, this would be a good time to tell someone about the Roundtable. I first learned of the group through Dale Molina, who I'd met at church. I'm glad she told me, and there's probably a Civil War enthusiast out there who would be glad you told them.

See you on September 26, 7:00, at the GAR.

BRD

What is the Cal Doucette Achievement Award?

contributed by Lynn Heller

Cal Doucette was a member of the Gettysburg Civil Roundtable. He held a position on our Roundtable Board of Directors, and was an active member in the Civil War Community. As a board member, he pointed out how many authors are recognized for Civil War books they have written, but that many folks have engaged in activities which enhance the visitor's experiences to Civil War battlefields, positively impact the landscape of battlefield parks, contribute to park's preservation and maintenance, contribute to learning about

Gettysburg and the Civil War, and yet they receive no recognition for these activities.

It was Cal who suggested the GCWRT create an award for such people who do something special for battlefields in general, Gettysburg in particular, and for the study of the Civil War. He envisioned an award to recognize people who have contributed to the enjoyment of visitors to the GNMP and to the community. After his sudden death in December, 2012, the CWRT Board of Directors

decided to create an award in his honor to memorialize his spirit.

Cal took an active role in many aspects of Gettysburg and the Civil War community. He was employed with the Gettysburg Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and assisted visitors at the Gettysburg train station. In addition, he volunteered his services for a number of organizations, including The Gettysburg National Military Park, where he worked at the Visitor's Center in the galleries and at the information desk, helping visitors; at the David Wills House; and at the Rupp House. Once a week he gave a living history presentation at the Battlefield Bed and Breakfast, and on Sunday afternoons he would visit Reid's Winery to talk about the Civil War with visitors.

In addition to volunteering, he was a member of the Civil

see CAL DOUCETTE continued 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 6:30 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.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, September 12, at the Perkins Restaurant on York Street, Gettysburg.

Fall 2019 Seminar...

There's still time to register for *Gone But Not Forgotten*

contributed by LBG Joe Mieczkowski

PLEASE JOIN US for a weekend-long visit to locations, landmarks, and areas that used to be on the Battlefield, but are no longer there. Many of these features still actually have remnants on the field. There will be five programs, one indoor on Friday, November 8, and four separate tours on Saturday, November 9. Check out the details of these programs below.

Friday, November 8, 6:30 PM

Heritage Center, 297 Steinwehr Ave, Gettysburg

Welcome and Reception with snacks and beverages

7:00 PM – World War I at Gettysburg

Presentation by LBG Dave Weaver

"Images of Gettysburg from the National Archives with Dave's interpretation based on his thoughts about military training from his own military experience. The presentation will include modern day photos of the locations depicted. Some of the photos show military drill, inspections, and tank/infantry training and I include with the pics some of my thoughts about what the men are doing and why. In addition, I'll give an overview of the military camp and the problem of the flu epidemic and local politics."

Saturday November 9, 8:00 AM

Hilton Garden Inn (HGI), 1061 York Rd, Gettysburg

Gather for coffee and a light breakfast in the General's Ballroom

8:30 AM – Camp Letterman Field Hospital

Presentation by LBGs Fran Feyock and Rick Schroeder

On this seldom visited field, heroes were defined, heroes were lost, and heroes were made. A visit to the Camp Letterman Field Hospital at Gettysburg

Join LBGs Dr. Rick Schroeder, M.D., and Fran Feyock, CRNA as they discuss the action following the departure of the armies at Gettysburg. The program will focus on the structure, mechanics, and stories related to surgery, anesthesia, and the medical care of the approximately 20,995 soldiers both North and South, plus the operation of an 1863 temporary field hospital. "It is unnecessary to do more than make an allusion to the difficulties that surrounded this department at the engagement at Gettysburg." – Dr. Jonathan Letterman, MD – Medical Director Army of the Potomac 10, October, 1863

**10:30 AM – "He sleeps by the side of a great rock..."
Battlefield burial sites.**

Presentation by LBG Britt Eisenberg

Most studies of the battle of Gettysburg focus solely on the three days of bloody combat, but the worst part of any battle story begins when the guns go silent. Who takes care of burying the dead? This tour will examine the grim process of providing soldiers a final resting place, sometimes systematic and at other times a somewhat haphazard process. Standing graveside, we will tell the stories of several of Gettysburg's fallen from their pre-war days until their earthly remains were first buried in the soil of Pennsylvania.

Noon: Lunch – HGI's Garden Grille and Bar

1:00 PM – 1913 Reunion (and Camp Colt)

Presentation by LBG Eric Lindblade

In the summer of 1913, over 50,000 Civil War veterans returned to the fields of Gettysburg to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the battle. While the images of former adversaries shaking hands across the wall still stir the imagination today, was the so-called "Peace Jubilee" that simple? Join Licensed Battlefield Guide Eric Lindblade as he discusses the planning, personalities, and myths associated with the Great Reunion. This tour will bring us to many of the sites related to the reunion such as the Great Tent where President Woodrow Wilson addressed the veterans and the Iron Brigade's tent. Also to be discussed will be the impact on the battlefield itself and the infrastructure improvements which would be put to use once again in 1917 and 1918 by the United States Army. This tour will involve mostly walking over reasonably flat terrain, with a few stops on more moderately difficult areas.

3:00 PM – World War II at Gettysburg

Presentation by LBG John Baniszewski

Many people at Gettysburg made important contributions to America's efforts to defeat Germany and Japan during WWII. In this program, you will visit the sites and learn about the people and facilities on the battlefield that were used to:

- Teach psychological warfare techniques to the soldiers that were sent to France following the D-Day invasion
- Develop the maps used to conquer the Japanese-held islands during the Pacific Theater offensives in 1944-45
- House German prisoners captured in the battles for North Africa and Europe
- Provide fuel in fulfilling America's role as the "Arsenal of Democracy" during the war
- Train college students to fly the planes that protected the Atlantic Coast in 1942

4:30 PM – Final wrap up to the day at the General's Ballroom at the HGI

The cost for this seminar will be \$125, and includes the five programs, Friday evening snacks, light breakfast, lunch, and transportation. If you want to act now you can to send a check, payable to ALBG, to:

ALBG • P.O. Box 4152 • Gettysburg, PA 17325-4152

You can also register online by going to:

www.gettysburgtourguides.org/2019-fall-seminar/

CAL DOUCETTE continued from page 2

War Trust (now the American Battlefield Trust), Friends of Gettysburg, Sons and Daughters of the Cause (Pittsburgh), Adams County Historical Society, and the Marilla Historical Society (his wife Sue's hometown), where they both frequently attend re-enactments and spoke at Historical Society meetings.


Cal will always be remembered for his interest in living history as he portrayed Robert Harper (editor of a local Republican newspaper at the time of the Civil War), and also Horace Greeley. One of Cal's most endearing presentations, was his reading of "The Night Before Christmas", dressed as a Thomas Nast's Civil War Santa, to a group of delighted children gathered round.

It is probably true that one of Cal's favorite past times was working with children. For many years he and Sue travelled to schools throughout Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey to teach youngsters what life was like as a child in the 19th century, explaining the games that were played, and giving children the opportunity to try on period clothing. They were also involved in "student days" at re-enactments from New York, West Virginia, and Delaware, where hundreds of children would be bussed in, and Cal and Sue would teach the children about the Civil War.

Cal and Sue never never accepted pay for their services, believing that the most important thing was sharing their love of history and teaching the next generation.

It is in the spirit of continuing Cal's work, in recognizing his achievements, and honoring his memory that this award was created.

The 2019 award will be presented at our October 24th meeting, to someone who has kept the spirit of Cal's devotion to the Gettysburg community, and to the appreciation of Civil War History alive, and has demonstrated that dedication to volunteering is it's own reward.

We look forward to making this presentation. We hope you will attend to support this most deserving individual. 



ERRATA...

The *New Members Are Joining* article in the July newsletter listed new members **Bob and Barbara Strangfeld** as Bob and Barbara Springfield. No one is happy to see their name misspelled especially when just joining an organization and the editor sincerely apologizes for the error.

Seminary Ridge Museum Annual Legacy Weekend

"Unfinished Work for Freedom"



Saturday, September 14, 2019

(includes Friday evening reception)

Throughout the 19th century, south-central Pennsylvania was "freedom's frontier." For decades, enslaved persons escaped from the brutality of slavery across the Mason-Dixon line; at the same time, slavecatchers prowled the region. African-American communities were established and thrived here. During the Civil War, African-Americans joined the United States Army and fought to extend freedom to all Americans.

Join the staff of Seminary Ridge Museum on a unique bus tour as they visit sites of national importance in the fight for freedom from slavery. Topics and stops include:

Mercersburg African-Americans and the 54th Massachusetts

John Brown and Frederick Douglass at Chambersburg

Thaddeus Stevens, "Little Africa," and the Caledonia Iron Furnace

Underground Railroad conductor Daniel Kauffman and his arrest at Boiling Springs

Gettysburg's African-American Community and the 24th U.S.C.T. (opt. Sunday morning walking tour)

Members - \$160

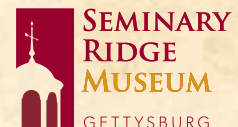
Non-members - \$190

(All Saturday meals included)

Register online at www.seminaryridgemuseum.org

By phone call 717-339-1300.

For questions, contact Rob Williams at rwilliams@seminaryridge.org



JULY MEETING CANDIDS

Featuring **BATTLE IN THE PEACH ORCHARD** with LBGs Jim Hessler & Britt Isenberg



AUGUST MEETING CANDIDS

Featuring LBG Chris Army's **TOUR THE EAST CAVALRY FIELD**



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