



The Signal Station

2nd Quarter 2024
Issue 3



The prognostication of Punxsutawney Phil had alerted us to the early Spring that was to come and sure enough Tourism has begun in earnest this year. The motorcycles are revving at the stoplights, the school buses have returned to the busy city streets, and you begin to see license plates from all over the country on the Park Avenues. The Peach Orchard is full of blossoms and will be full of life when we return to the Battlefield for our summer tours in June.

Three important things this quarter.

1. Make sure you are current with your Membership Dues.

You can support our efforts easily online at:

<https://cwrgettysburg.org/membership.htm>

Or you can mail the form on the last page of this circular to:

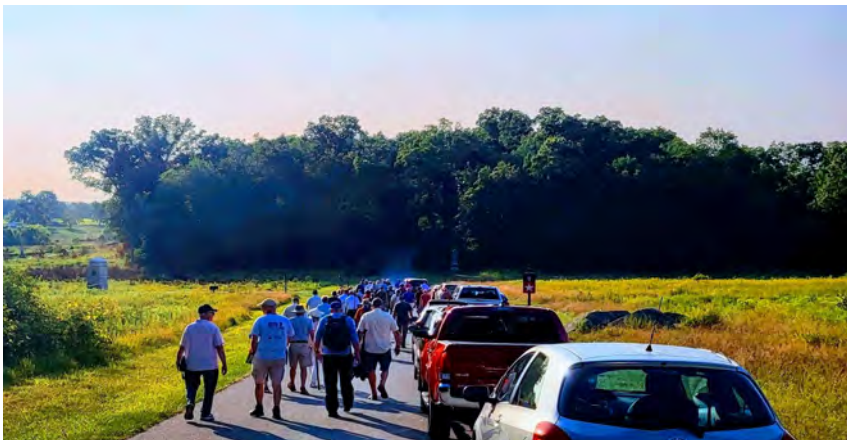
Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable
P.O. Box 4236
Gettysburg, PA 17325-4236

Make checks payable to *Gettysburg CWRT*.

2. Elections will be held at the April Meeting. Only current members will be given a Ballot in this election (See #1).
3. Battlefield Meetings will resume on June 8th with Fred Hawthorne. *Places Every Guide Should Know: Hancock Avenue Edition.*

BEWARE: The ticks are out in force this year.

Drive Safe this Spring & Bring on the Tourists!



Officers

Bruce Davis, President

Michele Hessler, Vice President

Veronica Brestensky, Recording Secretary

Linda Seamon, Membership Secretary

David Diner, Treasurer

Roger Heller, Program Director

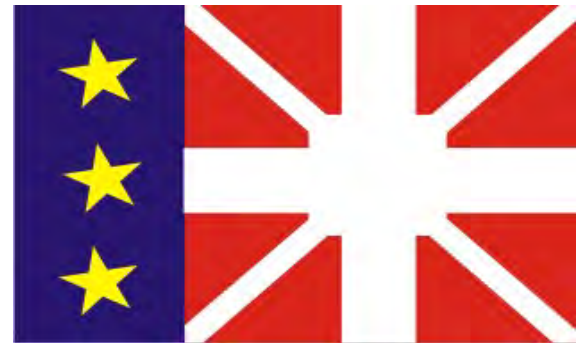
Linda Joswick, Webmaster

Lynn Heller, Facebook Administrator

Board Members

(2024) Abbie Hoffman, Lynn Heller; (2025) Rip Engle, Roger Heller; (2026) Ted Hirt, Jaimee Umstatt

Board Member Ex Officio: Therese Orr



CHRONICLES OF "THE MOST IMPORTANT ROUND TABLE, IN THE MOST IMPORTANT SMALL TOWN, AT THE MOST IMPORTANT BATTLEFIELD, IN THE MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRY IN THE WORLD."

Joe Mieczkowski

President's Letter

The Civil War Round Table of Gettysburg was organized on April 25, 1957. G. Rodney Harbaugh, an Air Force veteran, then working as a physical therapist at Annie Warner Hospital (forerunner of Wellspan) was elected president; G. Henry Roth of the Gettysburg Times was chosen as vice-president; J. Melchoir "Mr. Gettysburg" Sheads, secretary; John G.W. Riddle, treasurer. The program committee included heavy hitters Harry Pfanz, Frederick Tilberg and J. Walter Coleman. (If you're noticing the lack of female presence, I believe the first woman to serve as an officer was Barbara Shutt, elected secretary in 1967. Mrs. Schutt was a woman of firsts: In 1968, she would be the first of her gender licensed as a Battlefield Guide and in 1976, the first woman to be elected president of the Civil War Round Table of Gettysburg.)

The 25th of April 1957 was a fourth Thursday and the Gettysburg Round Table has been meeting on fourth Thursdays of the month ever since. Likewise, we elect officers in April. Per our by-laws, originally adapted from the Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia, a Nominations Committee makes a preliminary report in March. This year's committee is headed by Rip Engle, working with Linda Seamon and Ted Hirt. The committee brings a finalized slate to the April meeting and after opportunity to make nominations from the floor, we vote. We've had some TERRIFIC people step up to offer themselves for leadership this year, which I see as a very positive indicator as to the health of the group. And this April's meeting marks the first anniversary of our relocation to the Adams County Historical Society building on Biglerville Road. While, in retrospect, the new venue seems like it should have been an obvious move, it didn't seem so clear cut when the Board of Directors was wrestling with the issue of what to do in the post-covid era. But we took the proverbial leap of faith and the Battlefield Overlook Events Center has proven ideal for our purposes.

The Civil War Round Table of Gettysburg will enter our 68th year on a definite high. This is particularly gratifying given the challenge of keeping the Round Table turning during covid. Your support is deeply appreciated. And, please, keep inviting folks to our meetings. Having had the opportunity to brag on O.O. Howard to a room full of attentive hearers in February, I can attest that these big turnouts are a great encouragement to the speakers—and to the group writ large.

- Bruce Davis



5 MORE MINUTES

The introduction of our new segment 5 Good Minutes left me wanting more so I took it upon myself to seek out our speaker, Dale Molina for 5 More Minutes. Below are my follow up questions.

How did you find your way to Gettysburg?

Dale explained that when she moved here in 2007, she felt every bit the South Carolina rebel. Her partner held the Gettysburg fascination but she soon found herself immersed and has adopted the place in her heart.

How did Conrad Richter and yourself become interested in George Bushman's fate?

Dale replied, they were indexing records at the Wolf House and Conrad was looking up the records for St. Marks Church and found the Burial Permit and found a Burial Permit for Clarence Collins. The cause of death was Judicial Electrocution. That was curious.

How did you go about researching what put Clarence in this predicament?

Each used their personal skills to understand this sadly forgotten case. Dale researched and Conrad wrote. As a long time volunteer in the ACHS and the Gettysburg Foundation, Resource Rooms, Dale knew how to research genealogy. There was also a lot of time spent at the Courthouse. The references for this work are extensive with no less than 154, as you can find at the end of the journal. Needless to say, the study took longer than a month as originally estimated.



Photo courtesy of Lynn Light-Heller

What discoveries did you make along the way that surprised you?

1. The trial for Clarence Collins and Charles Reinecker for the murder of George Bushman took two years. The jurors were either sick with the 1918 Spanish flu or conscripted into the Great War (WWI).
2. The actual murder did not occur in Adams County, however, the trial would end up being held in Adams County Courthouse due to an old rule based on where the crime happened in proximity to the county border.
3. The eight witnesses to the executions of Clarence and Charles proclaimed the young men didn't flinch when the time came. They appeared resolved to their fate.
4. There was a stunning surprise when a woman in Florida returned Clarence's prison painting of St. Marks Church to ACHS. It was thought to have been destroyed during the prison's remodeling in 1947. Damaged from the wood frame it was attached to for all these years, the peaceful work of art now gives the appearance as if looking through prison bars. A sad and fitting end to the story.

- Jaimee & Dale

The journal can be found in full at the link below.

<http://tinyurl.com/GeorgeJBushman>



Winter Meeting Snapshots



Above: January 25: Codie Eash started off the year speaking of *The Summer of 1869*.



Photo courtesy of Lynn Light-Heller



Photo courtesy of Lynn Light-Heller

Above: February 22: Our own Bruce Davis, dares to Defend Oliver Otis Howard to a full house.



Photo courtesy of Lynn Light-Heller





To the Right: Lynn Light-Heller showcased her beautiful battlefield photos March 28th.



*To the Left: March 28: Allen Thompson introduces our CWRT to his enterprising new book, *In the Shadow of the Roundtops*.*



*To the Right: Our fortunate Dave Diner delivering the *Treasurer's Report*.*



Above: February, Michele Hessler educates us about the song "Follow the Drinking Gourd"; and it's important use on the Underground Railroad .



“I was in that fracas at Gettysburg and we saw the hottest part of it.”

I have eight ancestors that fought in the Civil War. All eight served in the Union Army. But only one saw action at the Battle of Gettysburg. David Alva Barnett was born on January 12, 1841 in the small village of Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania. Peach Bottom was located in the southeastern most portion of York County. A blacksmith apprentice and laborer, he left the family homestead, his widowed mother and five siblings to cross the Susquehanna River by ferry and travel to enlist at Philadelphia on July 26, 1861. He was quickly promoted to Corporal with Company B of the 99th PA Infantry Volunteers. David Alva remained with Company B of the 99th as their regiment was first shifted to the defenses of Washington DC and then eventually absorbed by the Army of the Potomac. On March 1, 1863, David Alva was promoted to Sergeant in Company B. The 99th PA would have their historic moment as a regiment at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863, where as part of General Hobart Ward's Brigade of General Dan Sickles' 3rd Corps, they would fight Confederate soldiers belonging to General John Bell Hood's Division of the Army of Northern Virginia through the boulders of Devil's Den. Sgt Barnett would write his young cousin Robert J Barnett (my great great grandfather) on July 29, 1863-



"Your welcome letter came to hand in due time, but on account of being on a continual march, I could not get it answered as soon as I ought. We have been going day and night almost since June 11th. Some nights we marched all night and very often until 11 and 12 o'clock, then to resume it at daybreak in the morning.

I was in that fracas at Gettysburg and we saw the hottest part of it. Our regiment lost near fifty percent of the number engaged there in a short time. General Meade was not expecting an attack where we were and only had a single line of battle. Lee was making feints on other points of the line and massed three lines in the woods in front of us, expecting to wade right through, but he has not got any considerable distance that way yet. We held our ground for some time, then commenced to fall back slowly, but before we got 200 yards, reinforcements came up and turned the scale.

I spent the 4th of July about a mile south of Gettysburg, but did not spend it as I would have liked to. It rained nearly all day and we were within about 100 yards of the Rebel sharpshooters, who kept picking at every head they could see. So we were obliged to lay rather close to the ground than was

“Had we pitched in head over heels, ten chances to one they would have given us as sound a threshing as we gave them at Gettysburg.”

That night General Lee commenced falling back toward the Potomac. We followed him up until we got within about three miles of the Potomac at Williamsport, when we found him in a very strong position, ready to receive us and had we pitched in head over heels, ten chances to one they would have given us as sound a threshing as we gave them at Gettysburg. Then those great experienced fireside generals would have changed their tune from crush Lee's Army to drive it from the state. They must learn that to crush such an army is no child's play.

As soon as they crossed the river, we struck down it, and crossed at Harper's Ferry, came down the north side of the Blue Ridge, passed Snickers, Ashby's and Manasses Gap. At the latter we had a right sharp skirmish on the 23rd. We cleared the gap, then struck for Warrenton. We are now laying about three miles from here and I think will lay here for a few weeks, until your drafted boys get down. Some of our officers have gone after them.

I am well, and hope you are all the same. Please write soon and give me the names of the drafted around there. Tell Margaret I will try to answer hers in a few days. Goodbye. I remain your affectionate cousin. "

On November 7, 1863, Sgt Barnett was wounded in the left knee at Kelly's Ford, Virginia. According to George Prowell's

1907 book- A History of York County, Pennsylvania Volume II, SGT Barnett was acting in the capacity as a color guard sergeant at Kelly's Ford when he was wounded. He was transported to Douglas Hospital in Washington DC, where surgeons made the decision to amputate his left leg above the knee. On November 26, 1863, he died from "pyemia"-which is basically blood poisoning. He was only 22 years old. Sgt Barnett's wound treatment, amputation, and death are a case study in The Medical and Surgical Record of the War of Rebellion.

On November 28, 1863, Sgt Barnett's body arrived back home to Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania. He lies buried in his family's plot at Salem United Methodist Church. For Seargent David Alva Barnett, the war was over. His marker is barely readable anymore, but his service to our nation is remembered. He is listed as "SGT DA Barnett " Company B 99th PA on the Pennsylvania Monument at the Gettysburg National Military Park.

David Alva was clearly well read and educated. That may be why he was promoted to Sergeant. One of his younger brothers would become the editor of a newspaper. Another would serve with the 3rd NJ Cavalry, survive the war and travel west to Missouri to become the President of a bank. As for my great great grandfather, he would work for the government in Washington DC as a carpenter working on the Capitol. There is an interesting letter between him and his “girl” (my future great great grandmother) that involves Abraham Lincoln. But that story is for another day.

Richard Snyder, York County, PA

No. 2

RECORD OF DEATH AND INTERMENT.

Name and number of person interred.	David A. Barnett
Number and locality of the grave	
Hospital number of the deceased	1493
Regiment, rank, and company	99 th Pa. Vols. Sergt. of Comp. B.
Residence before enlistment	Peach Bottom
Conjugal condition, (and if married, the residence of the widow)	Single
Cause of death	Amput. Wound of Knee, Comp. of Thigh Death from Pyemia.
Age of the deceased	22 Years
Nativity	Penn
References and remarks	Mother is A. Barnett, Peach Bottom, York Co. Pa.
Date of death and burial	November 26 th 63, November 28 th 1863.

[A duplicate of this Record has been forwarded to the Sexton, and another remains at this Hospital.]

To *Brig. Genl. L. Thomas*
Adj. Genl. W. S. Army

SIR: It becomes my duty to inform you that the person above described died at this Hospital as herein stated; and that it is desired his remains should be interred with the usual military honors.

Respectfully,
W. Thompson
 Asst. Surgeon U. S. Army.
in charge.

MILITARY HOSPITAL, *Douglas*

This copy of Record is to be transmitted to the Adjutant General at Washington immediately after the place of burial and the number of the grave have been ascertained and registered. The above notification is to remain attached.



New in Town! The Thaddeus Stevens Museum

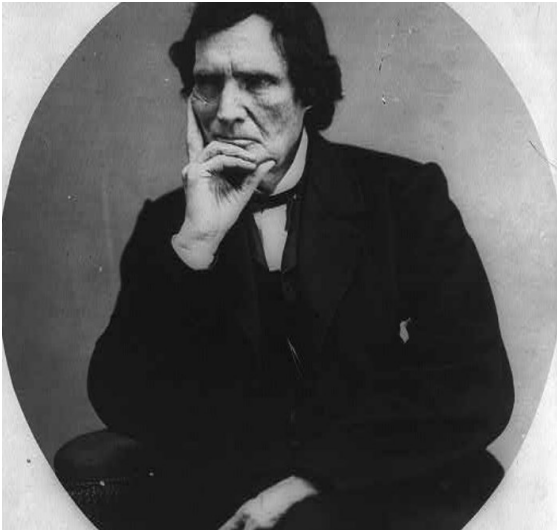


Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress

Thaddeus Stevens was a champion for the common people. Those people could be any color, from any upbringing, and any financial status. Gettysburg is proud to be home to this great man for a portion of his life. As a humble man, we can't say for sure what he would think about us making a fuss about him but one fact is how fortunate we are that he has a relentless advocate in Ross Hetrick. Ross heads up the Thaddeus Stevens Society and over the years has been the leading spokesperson, successfully bringing about a well-deserved statue in front of the Adams County Courthouse in Gettysburg. He did it again by opening The Thaddeus Stevens Museum at 46 Chambersburg Street, Gettysburg. See below for all the details of the Grand Opening.

"The Thaddeus Stevens Society will hold the grand opening of its new museum at 46 Chambersburg Street in downtown

Gettysburg, PA on April 4th from 5 to 7 p.m. The date is also the 232nd birthday of Stevens and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Stevens Society. Tom Jolin, Civil War period musician, will provide entertainment at the event. More information about the event is at this link

<https://www.thaddeusstevenssociety.com/museum>

The facility will be the first stand alone museum dedicated to Stevens. The 815 square-foot space will feature the Society's extensive collection of Stevens artifacts including Stevens letters, period newspapers and stoves made at iron mills owned by Stevens. There will also be hundreds of books and documents available for research on Stevens.

The storefront is across the street from where Stevens's home was located at 51 Chambersburg Street until it was torn down a hundred years ago. Stevens lived in Gettysburg from 1816 to 1842. While there, Stevens became a prominent anti-slavery and pro-education state legislator and operated two iron mills in the area. He then moved to Lancaster, PA in 1842 where he was elected to Congress and was instrumental in the legislative destruction of slavery and became the Father of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which requires equal treatment under the law and extends civil rights to the state level." - Ross Hetrick

Stevens loathed President Andrew Johnson's Southern-coddling Reconstruction policy. When a friend defended Johnson by pointing out that he was a self-made man, Stevens sneered: "I never thought of it that way, but it does relieve God Almighty of a heavy responsibility!"

Thaddeus Stevens

We have many cross-over members of the CWRT of Gettysburg and The Thaddeus Stevens Society.

Don't miss out making history April 4th. Join the festivities!

"Speaking of fun, consider buying a ticket to the fundraising dinner that will be held at 7 p.m. right after the grand opening of the new Gettysburg museum on April 4. The tickets are \$50 a person and include a pass to a wine reception across the street at Adams County Winery before the grand opening. The lasagna dinner will be served in the social hall of the Christ Lutheran Church next to the museum and there may be a surprise guest. You can get tickets by emailing info@thaddeusstevenssociety.com or calling 717-347-8159." - Ross Hetrick

Now presenting... The Cal Doucette Achievement Award

The Cal Doucette Achievement Award, which recognizes a person or persons who contribute their time and talents for the betterment of the Gettysburg Community, will be presented to:

Wendy Allen

at the May 23, 2024 meeting. Wendy is a nationally acclaimed Lincoln artist, keeping his presence alive in our hearts and minds, and founder and presenter of "One Hundred Nights of Taps" which every evening from Memorial Day to Labor Day, honors the fallen laid to rest at the Gettysburg National Cemetery, Wendy is also president of the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania, and serves on the Board of Advisors for The Lincoln Forum.

Congratulations to Wendy!

- Lynn Light-Heller

To the Right: Wendy Allen at the Soldier's National Cemetery. She will be awarded in person at the May 2024 Meeting.

Below: Lynn Light-Heller announcing the award at a previous meeting.



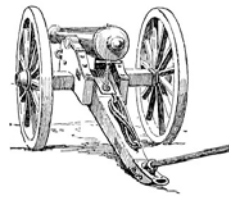
Photo courtesy of Carolyn Ivanoff



Photo courtesy of ACHS

Events and Programs!

Our humble town boasts opportunities to listen and learn year round, so celebrate Gettysburg and join us at these Upcoming Events with our Community partners.



April 5-7 Gettysburg Film Festival: The Art of Ken Burns Special Programs at various locations in Gettysburg. Headliners include, Ken Burns, Sam Waterston, Harold Holzer, J.K. Huitt, Chris Mowery, Jay Unger and Molly Mason. www.gettysburgfilmfestival.org

April 18th 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Northern York County Historic and Preservation Society Spring Speaker Series Local author James Rada, Jr, from Gettysburg, who writes both historical fiction and non-fiction history. He specializes in Exploring Forgotten History. James will speak on the topic of Battlefield Angels: Daughters of Charity Work as Civil War Nurses from his book with the same title. Located at Dill's Tavern 227 N. Baltimore Street, Dillsburg, PA 17019 <https://northernYorkHistorical.org/>

April 20th, May 25th, June 15th, 10 a.m.– 12 p.m. Addressing Gettysburg offers Free **Get Out of The Car Tours** during the Summer months. These tours are all OUTDOORS and "off the beaten path." So be sure to have proper footwear, insect repellent, sunscreen, water, snacks, etc. Visit their website for topics & meeting locations. <https://www.addressinggettysburg.com/get-out-of-the-car-tours/>

April 25th - 28th American Battlefield Trust Annual Conference is in Gettysburg this year. Keep an eye on their Website. Register at: www.Battlefields.org

May 4th 7:45 a.m.— 4:15 p.m. Civil War Medicine Symposium Co-sponsored and Presented by Blue & Gray Hospital Association and Gettysburg Foundation. 3rd annual symposium event, covering various topics on Civil War medicine and its importance in the overall study of the American Civil War. Registration required. Ford Education Center at Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor's Center. <https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/>

May 25th, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. The Horse at Gettysburg - Prepared for the Day of Battle. Chris Bagley discusses the roles of horses on the battlefield. This is event FREE but donations to help the Lomas Center continue it's mission to increase the public's understanding and appreciation of American Military History are greatly appreciated! RSVP on website. Seating is limited to 50. <https://lomascenter.org/>

May 27th One Hundred Nights of Taps Beginning May 27th and continuing until Labor Day. 5:30 p.m. LBG free interpretive program; Taps sounded at 7 p.m. each night. <https://www.tapsforveterans.org/100-nights-of-taps-gettysburg-2024/>

June 7th - 9th HGAC Barn Art Show & Sale If you like barns and if you like art, then this event is for you! Come see the show that some say is the "largest collection of barn art under one roof in the known universe." <https://www.hgaonline.org/>

June 7th—12th Gettysburg College – Civil War Institute Summer Conference Join us for a fresh lineup of CWI speakers! We are excited to feature leading Civil War scholars, Ronald White, Harold Holzer, Jonathan White, Jennifer Murray, D. Scott Hartwig, Elizabeth Leonard, Aaron Sheehan-Dean, and more within our line-up of more than 40 distinguished speakers and tour guides. <https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/>

Upcoming Speakers

April 25
Stephen Evangelista
Brown's Rhode Island Battery

May 23
Lisa Samia
The Nameless & Faceless of the Civil War in Poetry

June 8 (Saturday
9:30 am to noon)
Fred Hawthorne
Places Every Guide Should Know: Hancock Avenue Edition

June 27 (Rain date June 28)
Jasan Hileman
Red Carroll's Brigade

July 25 (Rain date July 29)
Larry Korczyk
The Wheatfield — Part 2

August 22 (Rain date August 26)
Ralph Seigel
11th Corps Program TBA

September 26
Derek Maxfield
General William T. Sherman's Civil War

October 24
Jeff Harding
How Weather Effected the Civil War

November 21
John Heiser
The George Rose Farm of Gettysburg

December 5
Holiday Banquet
Charles Fennell
Culp's Hill "Rediscovered"

Our meetings are the Fourth Thursday of each month.

We meet at ACHS Battlefield Overlook Events Center, 625 Biglerville Road, Gettysburg, PA. The doors open at 6:30 pm. Meeting starts at 7:00 pm.



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The Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg, PA **2024 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

The Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg, PA welcomes new and returning members to join us for our monthly meetings and activities. Individual membership dues are \$30 a year. A family membership is \$45 a year per family living at the same address. Your membership runs from **January 1 to December 31 of the calendar year.**

New members can join anytime during the year and dues are prorated as follows:

<u>Join</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Family</u>
January – December	\$ 30.00.....	\$ 45.00

Please fill in the information requested below and return it with your dues payable to **Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable • PO Box 4236 • Gettysburg, PA 17325.** You may pay your dues with PayPal using the link at <https://cwrgettysburg.org/membership.htm>. For further Gettysburg Roundtable information, please visit our website at cwrgettysburg.org.

NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL \$ _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (LAND LINE CELL) _____ E-MAIL _____

If you would like notifications to be sent to more than one email, please list the emails below:

Thank you, and welcome to the Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg, PA

