

December 2025 | Volume 36, Issue 3

Preservation & Progress

A Publication of the
Gettysburg Foundation

Ordinary Men,
EXTRAORDINARY DEEDS

The Economic
Ramifications
OF THE
Gettysburg Battle

Becoming A Licensed
Battlefield Guide

FRIENDS OF
GETTYSBURG
GETTYSBURG
FOUNDATION

Inside this issue...

Ordinary Men, Extraordinary Deeds:
What the “unknown” graves at
Gettysburg ask of us today. **3**

The State of Preservation:
A Letter from the President **5**

The Economic Ramifications
of the Gettysburg Battle **7**

What is leadership? **9**

A Memorable Season: Exploring
History & Community **11**

What Today’s Visitors Are
Telling Us, And What We’re
Doing About It **14**

Becoming A Licensed Battlefield
Guide at Gettysburg National
Military Park **15**

Partners Make It Happen:
Brian Shaffer **18**


Member Programs &
Registrations **19**

Friends’ Footnotes. **23**

On the cover...

*Civil War reenactors and volunteers
set up for the annual Remembrance
Day Illumination.*



Preservation & Progress can also be found in digital format. The digital newsletter offers exclusive videos, quick links and more! Articles that offer an enhanced digital experience or additional content are with a  icon. If you would like to receive the digital version, please email Bethany Yingling at byingling@gettysburgfoundation.org.

This publication is produced by the Gettysburg Foundation, the official non-profit partner of the National Park Service at Gettysburg. Its content may not represent the views of Gettysburg National Military Park, Eisenhower National Historic Site, or the National Park Service.

Preservation & Progress

A Publication of the
Gettysburg Foundation

The Gettysburg Foundation is a non-profit philanthropic, educational organization operating in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) to preserve Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, and to educate the public about their significance.

1195 Baltimore Pike, Gettysburg PA 17325
Phone 866-889-1243 | Tickets: 877-874-2478
www.gettysburgfoundation.org

Board Officers

Chair

A.J. Kazimi

Vice Chair

Gene Barr

Secretary

Richard A. Morin

Directors

W. Craig Bashein

Terry Cosby

John G. Finley

Jeff A. Frazier

James R. Hanni

Robert W. Iuliano

F. Harold Kushner, M.D.

Treasurer

Shanon R. Toal, Jr.

Immediate Past Chair

Barbara J. Finfrock

Tod J. MacKenzie

H. Turney McKnight

Carol A. Reardon, Ph.D.

Janet Morgan Riggs, Ph.D.

Jon C. Sirlin, Esq.

David J. Sorkin

Joseph TN Suarez

Directors Emeriti

Gabor S. Boritt, Ph.D.

LTG (Ret.) Daniel W.

Christman

Beverly (Bo) DuBose, III

David D. Hartman

Michael S. Higgins

James M. McPherson, Ph.D.

Sandra S. Mellon

David F. Remington

Barbara Sardella

Wesley W. von Schack

Eric B. Schultz

Robert C. Wilburn, Ph.D.

George F. Will, Ph.D.

In Remembrance of Loyal Friends & Leaders

Robert A. Kinsley,

Founding Chair

The Honorable Richard

Thornburgh

Stuart A. Haney

Kay O'Rourke

William E. Aldrich

Peter Carmichael

Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor Center

info@gettysburgfoundation.org

reservations@gettysburgfoundation.org

Battlefield Tours & Tickets: 877-874-2478

Gettysburg Foundation Administrative Offices

info@gettysburgfoundation.org

717-338-1243

Friends of Gettysburg Information

membership@gettysburgfoundation.org

Friends Membership Program Manager

Bethany Yingling

717-339-2148

Philanthropy Event Producer

Emma Burgess

717-339-2156

Program Administrator

Erin Pearce

717-339-2150

Management Team

President & CEO

Jackie Spainhour

Executive Assistant to the President

Kate Hill

Vice President of Community and Civic Engagement

Britt Isenberg

Vice President of Development

Brett Bernardini

Vice President of Facilities

Brian Shaffer

Vice President of Finance and Operations

Dana McDonald

Vice President of Marketing

Communications

Bruce McConnel

Newsletter Team

Executive Editor

Barbara J. Finfrock

Managing Editor

Bethany Yingling

Photographers

Ray Matlock

Erin Pearce

Sarah Lewis

Editing Staff

Millie Sunderland

Design

Gennifer Richie

Ordinary Men, EXTRAORDINARY DEEDS

What the “unknown” graves at Gettysburg ask of us today

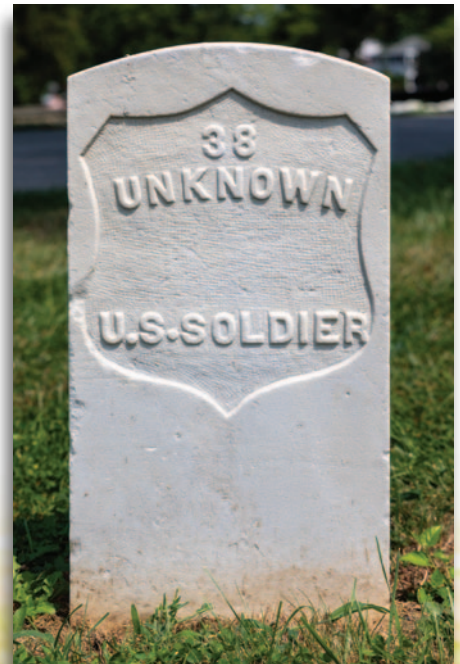
Walk the quiet rows of Gettysburg National Cemetery and you will meet a silence that speaks. Grave markers stand at attention, some etched with names and regiments, others bearing the single word: *Unknown*. These stones do not tell us where the soldiers were born or who waited for them at home. They tell us something harder—and more enduring—about a republic preserved by soldiers whose stories history cannot fully record.

The “unknowns” are not faceless. They are reminders that the defense of democracy has always depended on ordinary citizens who stepped forward when called. They were farmers and clerks, teachers and apprentices, immigrants and native sons—men who believed enough in the nation’s promise to stake everything on it. Their anonymity is not a deficiency; it is a mirror. It reflects our own place in the long line of Americans asked to choose country over comfort and the common good over private ease.

Consider the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. On the second evening of the battle, as Union lines bent under relentless attack, these soldiers were ordered to charge—a near-impossible sprint

into the teeth of a larger force to buy a few crucial minutes. They went anyway. The losses were staggering. Yet in those minutes, won at terrible cost, the line held. Some historians still point to that charge as a turning point, a small band’s courage altering the course of a nation. The men of the 1st Minnesota were not superheroes. They were neighbors. They were, in the phrase we reserve for the very best of us, ordinary men performing extraordinary deeds.

What, then, do the unknown graves say to a divided, distracted 21st century? They say that democracy is not self-perpetuating.



It is tended—daily—by acts large and small. Some are dramatic, like the 1st Minnesota's charge. Most are quieter: voting with care, serving with humility, listening across differences, showing up for one another in the messy and necessary work of community. The courage demanded now is different in form but not in spirit. It is the courage to keep the conversation going, to protect institutions that protect us, to accept responsibility for a future we will share but may not see.

Abraham Lincoln stood steps from this ground and called this responsibility, "the great task remaining before us." That task did not end in 1863. It was handed forward—through Reconstruction and world wars, through eras of protest and progress, through every classroom where a child first hears Lincoln's 272 words. The unknowns at Gettysburg are emissaries from our past reminding us that citizenship is not a spectator sport. Their sacrifices reach into our present and ask, "Will you carry what we carried?"

*The cemetery's stones shift under
freeze and thaw; paths and walls age;
interpretive tools that once inspired millions
now struggle to reach a generation raised
on electronic screens. Preservation might
sound like maintenance. Here, it is mission.
Keeping these grounds sound and accessible,
modernizing exhibits so that they connect
head and heart, welcoming families and
students with programs that turn inspiration
into action—this is how
history does its work on us.
This is how a battlefield
becomes a civic classroom,
how the unknown dead
become our teachers.*



Carrying it begins with memory, and memory begins with place. The cemetery's stones shift under freeze and thaw; paths and walls age; interpretive tools that once inspired millions now struggle to reach a generation raised on electronic screens. Preservation might sound like maintenance. Here, it is mission. Keeping these grounds sound and accessible, modernizing exhibits so that they connect head and heart, welcoming families and students with programs that turn inspiration into action—this is how history does its work on us. This is how a battlefield becomes a civic classroom, how the unknown dead become our teachers.

The same country that once tore itself apart also found the resolve to knit itself back together—imperfectly, haltingly, but with a faith that tomorrow could be better than today. This faith is worth our

investment. It lives when we preserve what is sacred and make it speak to the living. It thrives when we pair reverence with relevance and restore headstones and historic structures while at the same time inviting new generations to ask what freedom requires of them now.

So let the unknown stones do their work on your conscience. Let the 1st Minnesota's sprint through smoke and fear reframe your day. Then act. Bring a class to the cemetery. Volunteer. Support the restoration that keeps this ground truthful and safe. Help reimagine the museum so that first-time visitors feel the weight—and the hope—of what happened here.

The names on these markers may be lost to time. The meaning and their purpose are not. They fought for an idea still worth our devotion: that a nation of free people can govern itself. The Great Task remains. It belongs to us now—to ordinary citizens willing to do extraordinary things so that *government of the people, by the people, for the people* does not perish, and proves itself again and again.



The State of Preservation

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

During my first year as President & CEO, I have learned that the root of our partnership with the National Park Service is firmly based on the belief that the places and stories of Gettysburg deserve to be preserved, interpreted and accessible to the American public in perpetuity. Because of you, our Friends of Gettysburg, these stories live on. Your support makes it possible to preserve this history and share its lessons with every generation.

I have had the distinct privilege of working alongside historians, preservationists and volunteers who make this message come to life. In 2025, the Gettysburg Foundation, supporting our park service partner, completed a campaign to launch the preservation of the Klingel Farmstead, a key cornerstone and lens to the interpretation of the second day of the battle. With your support, the Klingel Farm project is progressing, serving as a strong reminder of what this Friends community achieves together.



We also completed a long-awaited project: the Foundation's section of the Spangler Trail, which will connect the George Spangler Farm & Field Hospital with the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor Center when joined with the National Park Service's portion. This trail will provide a new point of access for visitors to connect the civilian experience to the battle in a tangible way.

On a hot late spring day, members of our management team, the Board of Directors and I met with elected officials in Washington, D.C., to share Gettysburg's story and invite them to see firsthand the impact of preservation. Time and time again, we told the story of places like Gettysburg, where visitors can learn about the human cost of war and the lessons of leadership, both during the Battle of Gettysburg and through the eyes of President Eisenhower. We also personally invited these officials to visit and see these historic sites for themselves.

Some of our best work, however, is done with boots on the ground by our dedicated staff, volunteers and Friends. In April, they made the annual Easter Egg Roll at the Eisenhower Farm possible, welcoming hundreds of families and setting a record for the largest crowds yet. Similarly, thousands of visitors attended the World War II weekend activities at Eisenhower National Historic Site, including dozens of living history groups. During Volunteer Work Day, many enthusiastic Friends stepped up on a humid, rainy day to beautify the grounds of Gettysburg National Cemetery and Annex, along with other projects identified by our partner. Friends from all over the country were undeterred by the weather, and almost everyone who signed up to volunteer showed up to do so. The genuine respect for this place and commitment to its sanctity has never felt more real to me than that day.

As the world continues to turn, the battlefield, the Eisenhower Farm and all the land and objects under the care of the National Park Service age with it. Like many national parks, Gettysburg faces real challenges in caring for its landscapes and sites. Thanks to your generous support, the Foundation has stepped in with critical help, from snow

removal to artifact acquisition, ensuring that the visitor experience continues to meet our standards of excellence. So far this year, we have committed funds for lawn care and other routine maintenance items for the sites. Additionally, funds from the Gettysburg Foundation have ensured continued operations at the Museum & Visitor Center, supplies for volunteer workdays and even videography support to bring programs to your home screens. I am proud to be a part of this organization as it continues to support our National Park Service partner here in Gettysburg in tangible ways.

We have a saying in the historic preservation world: *the work never really ends*. We always have more to do. In discussions with our park partner, we recognize that they require our support even more today than they did a year ago. Together, we will identify several projects we hope to complete over the next few years.

For our relationship to be truly transformational, we need to move boldly. To achieve this, I am working with the National Park Service, our talented team at the Gettysburg Foundation and our Board Members and community supporters to dream loudly and more fully than ever before. The results of these discussions will become clear to you, our Friends, in the months ahead. Let me just say this: each of us will have a part to play in this great task.

I hope you'll continue to dream with us and help bring these dreams to life. Like our volunteers who showed up in the rain, I know this Friends community will answer the call. Together, we'll keep Gettysburg's story alive for generations to come.

We've got work to do!

Yours In Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jackie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, looping "J" and a trailing flourish.

The Economic Ramifications OF THE Gettysburg Battle

by Logan Lee, Gettysburg Foundation Summer Intern

In July 1863, the quiet Pennsylvania town of Gettysburg became the site of arguably the most famous and deadliest battle of the American Civil War. While its military importance has been continuously studied, countless facets of Gettysburg's importance and relevance remain to be discovered and studied. One of these less-explored topics is the lasting economic toll that the Battle of Gettysburg took on the town and its citizens.

In 1863, Gettysburg was a modest but thriving town whose industries and growth were rooted in agriculture, manufacturing, and education. During and after the battle, it faced unprecedented destruction, occupation by enemy forces and an uphill struggle for compensation that would take decades, if it ever came at all.

When the war came to Gettysburg on July 1, the local economy was instantly disrupted. More than 160 buildings in the town and surrounding area were damaged or seized to become makeshift hospitals. The streets ran red with blood. The fields were littered

with human bodies and dead horses. More than 160 acres of crops were trampled or destroyed. Civilians, caught off guard by the carnage, bore the responsibility of both the Confederate and the Union armies' needs, such as providing food, medical care and shelter. Farmers lost entire harvests, and businesses were shut down indefinitely. As one National Park Service source put it, "The Battle of Gettysburg didn't just pass through, it transformed the town into a massive field hospital and graveyard."¹

In the aftermath of the battle, Gettysburg's citizens submitted hundreds of damage claims to both state and federal governments, detailing the losses of livestock, crops, tools, clothing and even entire homes. After some time, a state commission adjudicated \$485,900.71 in claims for Adams County alone.² Reimbursement was another story entirely. As noted in an 1892 Congressional report, it was rare for the U.S. government to compensate citizens for property lost during war, despite constitutional promises of



The Leister Farm (General Meade's Headquarters)
after the Battle of Gettysburg.



George and Elizabeth Spangler, photographed in 1862 or 1863 by John S. Speights at his Gettysburg studio. The photo was provided by their 2X great-grandson Maurice Spangler of Kansas, who is also a great-grandson of their son Daniel.

George Spangler, On His Fields

“The troops marched through it and teams were driven through it, loose horses and cattle were in it, and teamsters staid [sic] there all night and fed their horses the corn. The crop was nearly destroyed. Succeeding in only saving only about fifty bushels of ears. Had nineteen acres of wheat standing in the field in the different patches, not over half a mile from the Union line of battle. The teamsters parked their wagons in the wheat fields, principally, ambulance wagons. One field of ten acres was nearly white with wagons, and the wheat was all tramped down and eaten by the animals. The other two fields were marched over by the troops, and wagons were parked in them, and the entire crop destroyed. Did not save any of the wheat.”

“Had twelve acres of oats standing in the field uncut and one end of the field was not over a quarter of a mile from the Union line of battle. It was tramped down by the soldiers and by wagons being driven through the field. The entire crop was destroyed, did not save any of the oats. The meadow was close to the buildings, about half a mile from the Union breastworks. The grass was all standing uncut, and was tramped down by being marched over, and by driving wagons through it. Horses were also grazed on it ...”

U.S. Government Determination, 1892

“That situation [battle and hospital damage] was his misfortune, and he is not to be relieved therefrom [sic] by the United States as they were not responsible for the circumstances which created it.”

Provided by Ron Kirkwood, author of *Too Much for Human Endurance*.

protection from invasion.² Gettysburg residents received an average of just \$73.31 per submitted claim, often years after the event, and were rarely compensated in full.¹

Gettysburg conveys how war not only shifts military and political tides, but economic ones as well. The town’s wealthiest families before the battle were predominately merchants, lawyers and artisans. In the aftermath of the war, power and status shifted to those who were in control of land, capital and tourism, but not without cost. Countless small farmers and townspeople awaited fair compensation that would never come. The U.S. government’s refusal to fully reimburse claims reflected a larger issue of reluctance to accept financial responsibility for civilians during the war, despite constitutional guarantees. As written in *Forbes Magazine*, “Saving the Union came at a steep price for those in its path.”³

The Battle of Gettysburg was a monumental turning point in the American Civil War and the course of a nation, but for the town of Gettysburg itself, it was an evolution in its economic history. Once a thriving hub for commerce and agriculture, Gettysburg was left damaged and scarred. It was the resilience of its people, who recognized what they experienced first-hand was an opportunity to rebuild. Today, the town’s prosperity is built on remembrance, fueled by hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world, who make annual pilgrimages to Gettysburg to encounter their shared and individual interests. An economic impact report published by the National Park Service revealed that in 2023, visitation to Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$88.5 million dollars.⁴

As the smoke cleared on Independence Day in 1863, Gettysburg faced an uphill battle to reach normalcy, reconciliation and peace. Now, more than 162 years later, the question remains: “How should we remember the civilians of Gettysburg for their role in preserving and telling Gettysburg’s vital chapter in America’s story”, when the ink was not yet dry?

1. Flook, J. (2013, September 5). Fields of Conflict III: Rose Farm Damages, Claims, and Awards. Retrieved from The Blog of Gettysburg National Military Park: <https://npsgnmp.wordpress.com/2013/09/05/fields-of-conflict-iii-rose-farm-damages-claims-and-awards/>

2. United States Congress, Committee on War Claims. (1892). Pennsylvania war claims. February 5, 1892. – Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1892.

3. Bandow, D. (2011, July 3). Gettysburg: Saving the Union at What Cost? Retrieved from Forbes: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/dougbandow/2011/07/03/gettysburg-saving-the-union-at-what-cost/>

4. Gettysburg National Military Park. (2024, September 3). Tourism to Gettysburg NMP and Eisenhower NHS Contributes \$88.5 Million Dollars to Local Economy. Retrieved from National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/gett/learn/news/2023-economic-impact.htm>



What is leadership?

by Dan Vermilya, Park Ranger, Education Coordinator,
Eisenhower National Historic Site

In 1965, Dwight D. Eisenhower (Ike) pondered this question in an article for *Reader's Digest*. With his lifetime of experiences—his decades long U.S. Army career, his tenure as Supreme Allied Commander in Europe during World War II and his two terms as President of the United States—Eisenhower was an ideal choice to answer such a question.

In his article, Eisenhower identified eight qualities he deemed essential for good leadership, illustrating each with an anecdote from his own life and relationships. Many of the qualities Eisenhower identified—selfless dedication, courage and conviction, fortitude, humility, thorough homework, power of persuasion—are ones that the stories of Eisenhower National Historic Site (ENHS) illustrate as well.

ENHS preserves the only home that Ike and Mamie owned. Having purchased their Gettysburg farm in 1950 to use as a home in retirement, the course of world events—and their dedication to service and duty—led the Eisenhowers and their Gettysburg farm onto the world stage in the 1950s. The very fact that in 1950, having just purchased the farm in Gettysburg, Ike accepted President Truman's request to head back to Europe and serve as Supreme Commander of NATO forces, illustrated his selfless dedication to country over self. Eisenhower also accepted the appointment because of his belief in NATO and the importance of alliances in maintaining the post-World War II peace.



Several years later, Eisenhower had left his NATO command and assumed a role even more important—President of the United States. Ike and Mamie would use their Gettysburg farm as an active part of their two terms in the White House, spending over a year in Gettysburg as President and First Lady. The Gettysburg farm saw President Eisenhower live out several of his leadership principles during these years.

When Eisenhower suffered setbacks, such as his heart attack in 1955, he came to the tranquil fields of Gettysburg to find the fortitude to recuperate and persevere, ultimately recovering and successfully running for reelection in 1956. During these times, the Eisenhower home was a refuge for the President, affording him a chance to be himself. The walls were not adorned with medals, decorations or ostentatious symbols, but rather reflected the quiet humility that he and Mamie sought and cherished after lifetimes in the public eye. Their home had so many of Ike's cherished items, including his beloved books. Ike's firm belief in leaders doing their thorough homework is evidenced by more than 900 books that still fill the shelves of the Eisenhower home today.



President Dwight Eisenhower, alongside Jawaharlal Nehru, India's inaugural Prime Minister, gently strokes one of his prized Black Angus bulls on his farm.

Eisenhower's farm did not only witness his personal trials and triumphs as president, but also his public ones. Eisenhower believed that leaders needed to be, above all else, human. As he noted in a 1959 speech, "We must understand people." His Gettysburg farm was a setting where Eisenhower undertook the work of understanding his fellow world leaders. In December 1956, Eisenhower hosted Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. Nehru and Ike spent two days discussing India's emergence as a world power and navigating Cold War relationships. President Eisenhower also hosted old friends and allies such as Charles DeGaulle and Winston Churchill. In September 1959, Eisenhower hosted Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet Premier, for an afternoon visit at the farmstead. On one September afternoon, almost 100 years after the Battle of Gettysburg, the Eisenhower farm saw the leaders of the world's two leading nuclear powers sit together and begin to thaw tensions over discussions of agriculture and grandchildren.

Visits such as these showed one of Ike's core principles—the power of persuasion in leadership. He used his farm and its disarming charm to bring new friends, old allies and Cold War adversaries together, persuading them that peace was worth pursuing no matter how tough the road.

Today, ENHS preserves the pastoral landscape that Ike and Mamie once loved, and along with it, the lessons of civic leadership that played out here during their lifetimes. The very fact that Eisenhower used this farm so extensively during his presidency illustrates his courage and conviction. Following World War II, Eisenhower spent the remainder of his life working to prevent a third world war in his lifetime. Rather than cherishing a well-deserved retirement after decades of public service, Eisenhower's conviction in maintaining world peace gave him the courage to pursue the presidency, placing himself, his family and his Gettysburg farm on the world stage.

Eisenhower's final two essential qualities were that leaders should not only act out their leadership, but also they should internalize their principles in their hearts and minds. Ike also believed that in a democracy, nations need leaders at every level of civil life. Today, Eisenhower National Historic Site offers programs, experiences, events and a landscape where visitors can connect with each of these principles. In so doing, we may find ourselves recommitted to the great tasks still remaining before us, discovering our own roles as leaders in our communities.

Dwight David Eisenhower noted on many occasions that he wanted to leave his Gettysburg farm better than he found it. Today, we reflect on his civil leadership and how we can follow Ike's principles to do the same with the world around us.



In April 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower guided French President Charles de Gaulle through the Gettysburg National Military Park.



2025 SPRING ————— SUMMER 2025

Memorable Seasons:

EXPLORING HISTORY & COMMUNITY

Friends' Events

This Spring and Summer brought a variety of opportunities for the Friends of Gettysburg—some brand new and others time-honored favorites. Our Encounters with History series expanded to include evening campfires and “Paint Like a President” activities, while Spring Muster and Volunteer Work Day invited participants to learn and lend a hand preserving Gettysburg. We also proudly supported events at Eisenhower National Historic Site, making full and rewarding seasons!

We kicked off the spring season with a new set of Encounters with History programs—the Council of War Campfires that took place at the Rupp House™ and the George Spangler Farm & Field Hospital.



Friends Membership Program Manager Bethany Yingling asks a question during a summer Council of War Campfire at the Rupp House with Friends.

These historian-led discussions offered participants the opportunity to learn, teach and discuss the finer points of the American Civil War, Gettysburg and history in a casual outdoor setting with other history-focused individuals.



Licensed Battlefield Guides Fran Feyock and Chris Breneman lead a group of Friends across the fields of Pickett's Charge while explaining the physical and mental impact the Battle had on its participants using new scientific discoveries.

the medical implications those involved in the attack faced. In June, we met for an updated “Gettysburg Shadows” tour where participants were asked to take everything they knew about the Battle of Gettysburg, its generals and their decisions, and reevaluate their own opinions and ideas. We were joined by nearly 100 participants in these two programs who learned, discussed and engaged with the significance of Gettysburg’s history in truly unique ways.



Licensed Battlefield Guide Ralph Siegel invites a group of Friends to revisit their understanding of the history of the Battle of Gettysburg based on the history of how the story has been told in text and on the field through the decades.

In April, more than 250 individuals traveled to Gettysburg to participate in our annual Spring Muster. Lectures and tours ranged from a psychological reflection on Robert E. Lee and the stories of the Gibraltar and Wofford's Brigades to stories of artillery units on both sides of the battle. At the end of the day, participants were invited to come back for dinner and participate in a casual Gettysburg Trivia contest that tested the knowledge and resolve of all. Sunday morning, First Corps members were invited to the George Spangler Farm & Field Hospital for a sneak peek of the first half of the new Spangler Trail. Attendees also previewed the yet-to-be-installed wayside markers covering topics like the history of the field hospital and the ecology of the property.

Through these seasons, we were also fortunate to be able to work with our national park partners on numerous events at both Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site. In April, Gettysburg Foundation staff and volunteers assisted the Eisenhower Farm in the second annual Easter Egg Roll that saw more than 500 attendees come out to learn about this unique tradition and participate in numerous activities. In June, we once again partnered with Gettysburg National Military Park for our annual Volunteer Work Day where, despite some dark clouds and rain, we were able to clear brush, clean out historic structures within both parks, clean headstones in Gettysburg National Cemetery and re-level 90 headstones in the Cemetery Annex. In September, the Gettysburg Foundation was also pleased to help the Eisenhower Farm organize the annual World War II Weekend by operating the Family Activities Tent. Staff and volunteers interacted with more than 1,500 individuals, sharing the stories of Gettysburg, General Eisenhower and World War II.

Sacred Trust

The National Park Service and the Gettysburg Foundation teamed up to offer a fantastic series of public programs during the 162nd battle anniversary for the 2025 Sacred Trust Talks &

Book Signings. This year's programming touched a wide range of subjects and featured new scholarship on the Gettysburg Campaign and the American Civil War. John Banks presented "A Civil War Road Trip of a Lifetime," based on his book of the same title, and shared his experiences exploring the modern American landscape and the colorful cast of humans that inhabit and interpret Civil War sites today. As the stories of the war that connect us teach, his journey through history is all about people.

Award-winning author and historian, William Marvel, shed light on the morale of Confederate forces in the wake of Gettysburg and

its implications throughout various theaters of the war through 1864. Marvel illustrated that through time, morale recovered and persisted prolonging belief and capacity of the Confederate war machine.

Dr. Lesley J. Gordon spoke about her evocative new book, *Dread Danger*, shedding new light on the previously only softly interpreted subject of cowardice in combat during the war. Any legacy of cowardice was largely buried by romanticized understandings of heroism and hyperbole, which ultimately buried the harsh realities of war from the viewshed of future generations. Gordon's work reassesses and measures how allegations of cowardice within specific units truly had a lasting impact.

Dr. Jon Nese of Pennsylvania State University and Licensed Battlefield Guide Jeffrey Harding shared details on their new book, *The Weather Gods Curse the Gettysburg Campaign*, and have set a new bar for corroborating research when it comes to understanding weather during the Civil War. This ground-breaking research provided

all sorts of new information on the conditions endured by soldiers and civilians alike. First, record-breaking heat and humidity wore down the warring armies during forced marches. Next, relentless storms plagued the soldiers with resultant muddy slogs on nearly impassable roads. As the armies met in mortal combat, soul-crushing heat turned the bucolic fields of Gettysburg into a barren expanse. Finally, torrential rains haunted the Confederate retreat and narrow escape across a swollen Potomac River.



Gettysburg Foundation staff and volunteers run the activities at the Family Activity Tent for the 2025 World War II Weekend at the Eisenhower National Historic Site.



Local educator and Gettysburg Foundation volunteer Fjolsin Pearce guides a young visitor through a military mail sorting activity during the 2025 World War II Weekend at the Eisenhower National Historic Site.

Closing out the weekend of lectures was Barbra Franco, who shared her findings from a 10-year project to identify the surgeons who cared for the wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg. A database of more than 1,200 surgeons, both Union and Confederate, was the basis for her new book, *Gettysburg Surgeons: Facing a Common Enemy in the Civil War's Deadliest Battle*. The study includes not only well-documented and prominent physicians who left written accounts, but also the lesser-known surgeons who were part of a complex system of doctors and caretakers both during and after the battle. The Sacred Trust videos are being released on schedule. We invite you to view the 2025 and past year's lectures on our YouTube channel.

Friends Alliance Conference

St. Louis played host to the 2025 National Parks Friends Alliance Fall Meeting from September 15–17 at Gateway Arch National Park. Four representatives of the Gettysburg Foundation attended the conference, and all came back with new insights on navigating public/private partnerships and exciting examples of how to engage with members across distance, generational gaps and social backgrounds.

The Friends Alliance is a network of nonprofit “Friends” groups, organizations that serve as partners to the U.S. National Park Service (NPS), providing support, fundraising, volunteer coordination, outreach and advocacy. In 2025, the Alliance assembled more than 300 participants from around the country in St. Louis to exchange ideas, network and explore innovative strategies for supporting parks.

The choice of St. Louis was symbolic: the Gateway Arch is not only an iconic landmark, but also a site that sits at the intersection of history, public space and environmental stewardship. The meeting was coordinated in partnership with Gateway Arch National Park and local organizations such as the Gateway Arch Park Foundation. Each fall, a different national park is chosen to be the showcase for this event, a true opportunity for a park to show off what makes the site so special to the American public and to their Friends. Gettysburg had hosted the Friends Alliance in 2015.

Over three days, attendees engaged in a mix of field experiences, plenaries, breakout sessions and informal networking. Some highlights included:

- Field trips around St. Louis showcased local examples of community-driven conservation, inclusive storytelling and collaborations throughout the city. Our group saw examples of successful (and unsuccessful) community partnerships, toured historic sites and even got dirty volunteering to remove weeds around the National Arch grounds.
- A welcome reception at the Arch offered our team both the opportunity to “go up the Arch” and a chance to mingle with



From l – r: Friends Membership Program Manager Bethany Yingling, President & CEO Jackie Spainhour, Vice President of Community & Civic Engagement Britt Isenberg, and Vice President of Marketing & Communications Bruce McConnel arrive in St. Louis for the 2025 Friends Alliance Conference.

attendees who do the same work in Friends groups at other national parks.

- Learning circles and breakout sessions on themes like capital campaigns, visitor engagement, tourism, new tools for nonprofit work and navigating fundraising challenges were offered.
- The entire group was introduced to National Park Foundation CEO Jeff Reinbold, who answered questions regarding the evolving role of philanthropy and partnerships in advancing park mission.

The 2025 Friends Alliance meeting in St. Louis was more than a conference. It was a chance for Gettysburg Foundation to truly see the impact that a Friends group can have within the structure of a national park. Challenges are inevitable, but Gettysburg Foundation has expanded its network of colleagues to whom we can communicate to help us navigate questions that may arise and who will work with us to celebrate our successes.

WHAT TODAY'S VISITORS ARE TELLING US...

AND WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT IT.

Insights from our summer survey reveal how visitors experience Gettysburg today, and how your support is shaping what they remember.

What draws someone to Gettysburg? This summer, we asked. Through dozens of on-site conversations, we listened to first-time visitors, returning families, history enthusiasts and the simply curious. Their thoughtful and personal answers were a strong reminder that your support of the Gettysburg Foundation makes a real difference.

The Museum & Visitor Center Still Sets the Tone

Nearly 70% of visitors surveyed said they stopped at the Museum & Visitor Center, and for many, it shaped their entire visit. The Cyclorama was the main attraction, but more than that, the Museum & Visitor Center helped orient them to the battlefield, giving them the “big picture” before they stepped onto the field. Still, some (especially day-trippers) skipped it, assuming it was “just a map stop.” That’s where your support matters; helping us connect these visitors more clearly to everything the Foundation makes possible inside those walls.

Stories Matter, Especially the Human Ones

Visitors don’t come for facts and dates alone. They want faces, voices and personal stories. Tales of soldiers, civilians and families leave lasting impressions. One person told us they were most moved by “the small personal details, they made it all real.” This is why the Foundation continues to invest in immersive exhibits and storytelling that bring history to life.

First-Time Visitors Are Increasing, And They’re Not Who You Might Expect

More than half of those surveyed were visiting for the first time, many from out of state. Some arrived with family, others on a road trip or simply out of curiosity. It’s a sign that Gettysburg’s appeal is expanding beyond traditional Civil War audiences, and a reminder that our messaging and experiences must keep pace. With your help, these visitors aren’t just passing through; they’re building meaningful connections.

It’s the Little Things That Make a Visit Big

Visitors overwhelmingly praised their experience but also provided thoughtful feedback. They requested clearer guidance on what is free versus paid—and why. Some missed the intimacy of the Cyclorama. Others highlighted signage, accessibility or navigation issues.

These may seem like small comments, but they impact lasting impressions. Your membership supports the daily efforts that shape our visitor experience.

We Have More Work to Do to Share the Foundation’s Story and Your Impact

Many visitors still don’t fully understand the Foundation’s role, or how support like yours makes their experience possible. That’s an opportunity. Every Cyclorama cleaning, exhibit and preservation effort, like the Klingel Farmstead, tells a deeper story. Alongside the Park, we help make these experiences happen. Now we need to make that role more visible.

Thank you for making it all possible. Because of you, Gettysburg continues to welcome new voices, preserve hallowed ground and deepen public understanding. Thank you for being an essential part of this story, and for helping us write the next chapter.

Becoming A Licensed Battlefield Guide

AT GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

by Michael Rupert

American History was always an interest to me, but I never learned in any detail. That would all change when I first brought my family to Gettysburg in 2001 for the typical summer vacation. We pursued all the normal activities—museum, ice cream, sun burned on the double-decker bus, ghost tour and exploring on the battlefield at random. Something, which is difficult to put into words, happened while exploring at random. Note that I didn't know much about the battle other than the North won. I was struck by the monuments and the massive battlefield. The Pennsylvania State monument is the place where life began to make a dramatic change. Susan, my wife, and I started going through all the names and found six "Rupert" soldiers there. Maybe we have some connection to this place? Suddenly the

power of simply being there was so overwhelming I stopped and couldn't speak. My heart absorbed the intensity of the place, and I would soon find that I could not let go. I imagine most of us have those moments in life that we might not fully understand, but know we must do something. For me it was wanting to do everything possible to learn about this place "Gettysburg".

The quest began by going to as many programs, lectures, conferences and battle walks as possible. I didn't even know or understand what a "Licensed Battlefield Guide" was until after a couple years of visiting. A guide takes visitors on the field to show and explain the battle, memory and power of being in that place.



Alright then, how does one become a Licensed Battlefield Guide (LBG), and why are there LBGs? During the years the U.S. War Department was the steward of the Gettysburg battlefield (1895–1933), they received numerous complaints from the public about ignorant shysters doing “tours” for a fee. The War Department decided that if people desired to give a tour for a fee, they must first pass a test, thus being licensed for that purpose. The War Department first licensed guides in 1915. Currently, the National Park Service, under the Department of the Interior, administers the licensing exam. The licensing has evolved over the years to a four-tier comprehensive process today, which is a remarkably difficult task.

My first attempt was in 2008. At that time, the test consisted of only two tiers, written and oral. I did not make the cut to advance to the oral. This occurred again in 2010 and 2012. Between 2012 and 2015, the process went to four tiers. Tier 1 is still the Written Exam, a three-hour morning session with hundreds of “blanks” in the questions—you know it, or you don’t. The afternoon session has essay questions for three more hours. Tier 2 is a Panel Interview with NPS Rangers and LBGs. You are evaluated on your interpersonal communication skills. Tier 3 is the Field Practicum, a three-day session where you are evaluated on numerous elements—extemporaneous speaking, assigned field program, tour outlines and requirements for the final tier. Tier 4 is the Oral Battlefield Exam in which you present your basic two-hour tour to a NPS Ranger and LBG on the Exam Committee. Keep in mind if you do not make it past a given Tier, you go all the way back to Tier 1 when it is offered again.

It was 2015 when I first advanced to Tier 2, elated and relieved after all those years that this was perhaps a real possibility. However, it was not. Tier 2 was in February 2016, I was quite nervous and rambled on with a couple of the questions. In March 2016, I received the letter informing that I did not advance to Tier 3. Absolutely crushed, I went downstairs to my library and

just sat there in the dark. After some time, my dear wife Susan, came down and asked why I was doing this whole process. The answer was very simple: “I think the soldiers should be remembered, and I should be a part of it.” She replied, “Then you keep going.” And I did! Went right back to the books, programs and battle walks to continue adding to the layers of understanding.

Over the years, LBG Ralph Siegel became one of my unofficial mentors. We were talking about the next round of testing, and I mentioned about having to get through another Tier 1 Written Exam. He said you did before, and you will do it again. He was right! I made the 2017 Tier 1 cut. As I found the Tier 2 Panel interviews very intimidating, Susan thought I could use some outside help. She recruited a friend from church, who does presentations as a large part of his regular job. We met at his home before the NPS Tier 2 Interview, and

we went over questions from the 2015 panel and discussed the process. He thought a mock panel interview would be helpful. He managed to roundup seven people who had professional speaking/presentation experience, came up with new questions and set the whole thing up for a night at church, a couple days before the “real” NPS interview. I did not know who was going to be on the panel, did not know the questions and got dressed up



Licensed Battlefield Guide Mike Rupert interprets Pickett's Charge for young battlefield enthusiasts.



Licensed Battlefield Guide Mike Rupert leads a Friends program atop the newly renovated Little Round Top.

just like the real thing! I was to wait outside church until exactly 7:10 p.m. I was then escorted into a classroom and BOOM...GO! Just like the real interviewers, they took notes on what I did and said in response to the questions posed. After all questions were answered, every person on the panel gave me feedback—the good and the bad. I was astounded at the different details they brought up. It certainly made a big difference and getting through the real Tier 2 was no problem this time!

The Tier 3 Field Practicum was straightforward—extemporaneous exercises, interpretation, field program and informed on what criteria must be met to make it through Tier 4. I advanced on to Tier 4. As the final Tier is the most difficult, you are assigned a mentor to work with. This is very helpful to get your basic two-hour tour to meet the criteria.

My Tier 4 mentor was LBG Mary Turk-Meena. I will say coming up with “your own” basic tour is very tedious as it must be decided what to leave out of the vast knowledge gained by this point—and still have an informative and enjoyable tour for the visitor. You must be willing to take sharp criticism and adjust accordingly.

After lots of practice tours with various friends, family and my mentor Mary, the day arrived. My Tier 4 Exam was October 17, 2018. A little nervous was an understatement... I woke up at 3 a.m. and the exam was not until 9 a.m. I met the examiners Angie Atkinson (NPS) and Fred Hawthorne (LBG) in the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor Center lobby and off we went. I was confident in what I had to present; however, NPS maintenance worked on the Hunt Avenue bridge the previous day. It was to be open the morning of my exam but was not. I did use Hunt Avenue as part of my tour route and adjusted on the fly. This put a part of the story a bit off and added a little time, but I still managed to finish in good order. I dropped off the examiners with only a minute to spare! While they went to discuss their notes, I was to self-critique the tour and write that out.

After a half hour or so, they came down to get me and took me to the upstairs meeting room. Still nervous, I was to speak first on my “self-critique” and discussion followed. As I finished going over my list, there was a quiet moment, I glanced up, and Angie said I had made it! A moment when time stood still...I think I was in shock. Pausing, I looked at Fred for additional affirmation.

Many things started buzzing through my mind, and I thought I better be careful not to say anything nonsensical before I left the room.

As the norm, the LBG Examiner takes the brand new LBG down to the Guide Room to meet any LBGs who may be in there. After saying hello to a few, we left the room, but as we were about to enter the Museum & Visitor Center lobby, LBG Larry Wallace was coming in. Larry, an old timer and perfect gentleman, stopped us, and Fred told him I just passed. Larry congratulated me and began telling us some of the wonders in Guiding.

As we were all standing near the hallway door, I noticed Susan patiently waiting across the expansive lobby. She already knew somehow. Eventually

Larry went on his way; I shook hands with Fred and made a beeline for my wife. There was an incredible tidal wave of emotion moving in the lobby that day as I made my way to her. We had finally made it, and she was and is a key part in it all. We found an apartment that winter, and I started doing tours in April. Seven years have passed, and the experience is fantastic. I do all sorts of tours now—cars, buses, adults, kids, specific units, leadership and special programs. The special program tours are a ton of work but necessary to keep learning.

So why does one go through such a process? For me, I love people and could not let the memory and power of this place go. The veterans themselves decided their service and sacrifice on this field should not be forgotten by erecting monuments. But the veterans also knew they would eventually pass on. We must continue to tell their stories, and the privilege to do so has made the eighteen-year journey to become a Licensed Battlefield Guide worth it all.



Licensed Battlefield Guide Mike Rupsert along Hancock Avenue at the Abraham Brian Farm.

PARTNERS MAKE IT HAPPEN: BRIAN SHAFFER

by Barbara J. Finrock

Is there anyone who hasn't been in a big building?

Probably not.

Is there anyone who says, "I wonder who takes care of *this* big building?"

Probably not!

Meet Brian Shaffer, Vice President of Facilities at the Gettysburg Foundation. He is the "Partner Who Makes It Happen" with his crew 365 days

a year, rain or shine (or snow) at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor Center.

This building is the principal site of the Gettysburg Foundation offices and the National Park Service offices on the second floor, and home to the historic, restored *Battle of Gettysburg Cyclorama* painting, valuable museum artifact collections and the principal location of Licensed Battlefield Guides. The Museum & Visitor Center is owned and operated by the Gettysburg Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service. Brian Shaffer is the partner that makes it all come together in many ways for Foundation and Park staff, thousands of members and millions of visitors from the USA and abroad.

Brian is a native of Adams County, educated in New Oxford and then in Mechanical Engineering Technology at Penn State York. He was employed for 25 years with York Tape and Label where he helped with various construction designs probably familiar to Bob Kinsley, who bought the property on which the Museum & Visitor Center is located.



From l – r: Sergeant Billie Amspacher, Vice President of Facilities Brian Shaffer, Facilities Manager Mike Guinn, and Custodial Manager Denise Henriquez accept the 2024 Governor's Award for Safety Excellence.

Brian was hired by then President Bob Wilburn and Vice President Elliot Gruber to be the Gettysburg Foundation Facilities Manager, before the building even opened to the public.

Currently, the Facilities staff is comprised of Maintenance, Custodial, Electronic AV technician, Security Staff and Safety Committee.

This team is responsible for not only the Museum & Visitor Center, but also the Rupp House™ and Finrock Cottage, the Gettysburg Lincoln Railroad Station™, the George Spangler Farm & Field Hospital, and the Armory. Brian supervises the managers of each segment of Facilities—a huge amount of territory.

Every morning the Facilities team conducts a walkthrough of the Museum & Visitor Center, the Custodial staff first and earliest. Weekly inspections and walkthroughs are also performed on off-site properties.

For relaxation and just plain fun, Brian and Liz enjoy travels to visit his daughter, Miranda in New York City and son Kyle in Hollywood. They are both college graduates—being busy is in the Shaffer blood!

The Gettysburg Foundation is especially proud that this team, led by Brian Shaffer, was recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry with the 2024 Governor's Award for Safety Excellence.

April 17 – 18, 2026 SPRING MUSTER

Join us for our annual Spring Muster!

Friday evening kicks things off with registration in the main lobby at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., followed by a presentation. On Saturday, eight different programs will be offered. Attendees will choose one program for the morning session from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., and one for the afternoon session from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be included at the Museum & Visitor Center from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Choose from the available programs below.

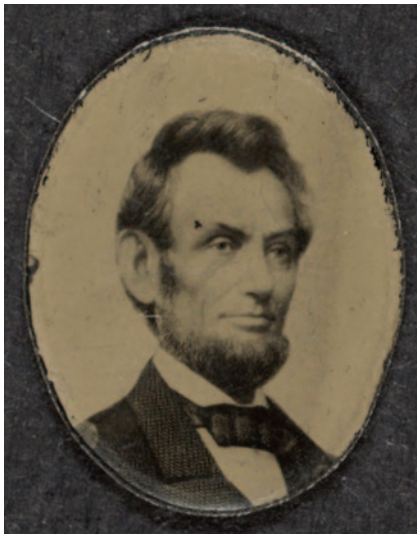


Friday, April 17

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Lincoln at the Sanitary Fairs: The Addresses after Gettysburg with Codie Eash, Director of Education and Interpretation, Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center

In the spring of 1864, Abraham Lincoln spoke at a trio of fairs benefiting the United States Sanitary Commission, marking the first times he traveled to speak since he visited Gettysburg the



Abraham Lincoln courtesy of loc.gov

previous November. Delivering addresses in Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia, Lincoln pled for a new “definition for the word liberty,” promised “retribution” against Confederates who slaughtered Black U.S. soldiers, and vowed to proceed in the Union war effort even “if it takes three years more.” We will

examine these writings, which collectively encompassed the most under-appreciated orations of Lincoln’s presidency, set against the backdrop of the Civil War’s costliest year and a looming reelection campaign.

Saturday, April 18

Daytime Programs

7:30 a.m. Registration Opens in the Bus Loop at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor Center

8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Morning Programs

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. . . . Lunch

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Afternoon Programs

Program #1 Indoor AM: *George Meade: A Lifetime Preparing to be a Leader with Mary Turk-Meena, Licensed Battlefield Guide*

Why is George Meade so successful at Gettysburg as he assumes command of an Army on a losing streak and turns it into a winner? George Meade lacks many attributes we expect of a leader and winner. He is not the picture of a general, but instead unattractive and largely unknown in 1863. He does not have a commanding personal presence. He’s not inspirational or a self-promoter. He is best known for his volcanic temper. Given that, what makes Meade successful at Gettysburg? This program explores George Meade’s pre-Gettysburg education, as well as his personal, work and military experiences that make this competent engineer, thrust into command against his wishes, a military winner.



George Meade courtesy of loc.gov

April 17 – 18, 2026

SPRING MUSTER

Program #2 Indoor PM: *No, Reynolds Did Not Receive the Pipe Creek Circular: Army of the Potomac Commander's Intent on July 1* with James Hessler, Licensed Battlefield Guide

July 1 was a battle brought on by subordinates, and it can be said that seven different general officers commanded the field for the Northern army on that day. Not surprisingly, confusion ensued regarding the various commanders' intentions on the battlefield and continues among historians. Join Licensed Battlefield Guide and author James Hessler for this indoor program that discusses the George Meade-John Reynolds relationship, the timing of the Pipe Creek Circular and how the rapidly developing battle impacted the actions of Reynolds, Abner Doubleday, Oliver Otis Howard and Henry Slocum on the field.

Program #3 Outdoor AM/PM: *A Soldier's General, Lafayette McLaws: "He knew when to lead us in, and he always brought us out."* with Rob Abbott, Licensed Battlefield Guide

We meet Maj. Gen. Lafayette McLaws and his Confederate Infantry Division as they do battle on July 2, 1863, at Gettysburg. The tour will focus on the orders developed from both General Lee and Lt. Gen. Longstreet and will follow the four brigade commanders as they execute the attack on the afternoon of July 2. The walk will be short distances on paved roads, gravel or short grass.

Program #4 Outdoor AM/PM: *Hiram Berdan's July 2 Reconnaissance* with Therese Orr, Licensed Battlefield Guide

Hiram Berdan commanded a group of highly skilled marksmen, the 1st and 2nd United States Sharpshooters. On July 2nd, his Sharpshooters, along with men of the 3rd Maine Volunteers, conducted a reconnaissance of Pitzer's Woods. At the northern edge of the woods, they clashed with regiments of Cadmus Wilcox's Alabama Brigade. Whose idea was it to make this reconnaissance: Berdan? Hunt? Birney? Sickles? What route did they take? Did they see Longstreet's force approaching? What was reported to Sickles and did that report prompt Sickles' move forward? This 0.5 mile walk along the Millerstown Road to Seminary Ridge will finish at Pitzer's Woods after a walk along West Confederate Avenue.

Program #5 Outdoor AM/PM: *The Story of the 14th Brooklyn* with Bill Trelease, Licensed Battlefield Guide

One of the few Union regiments that was heavily engaged on all three days of the battle, the 14th Brooklyn was also one of the unique regiments in the Army of the Potomac. Known as the "red legged devils", both for their distinctive uniform as well as their fighting prowess, it was also the only regiment in the Civil War, on either side, that was named after the city from which they came. We will follow the story of this remarkable regiment from its origins as a New York State Militia unit up to its bloody, critical and, yes, controversial fight here at Gettysburg. This tour will include some walking across the battleground across uneven ground.

Program #6 Outdoor AM/PM: *The Defense of Culp's Hill: The Other Guys* with Stuart Dempsey, Licensed Battlefield Guide

The determined defense of Culp's Hill by Brig. Gen. George Greene's brigade on the night of July 2 holds justifiably legendary status among Gettysburg students. Yet his plucky New Yorkers did not fight alone, receiving several regiments of reinforcements drawn from three different corps, a timely assistance that nearly doubled Greene's numbers. The story of their contribution is often lost among their more dramatic deeds on other days, compounded by a lack of primary sources chronicling a confused nighttime firefight against an invisible enemy. Our look at the contribution of these critical reinforcements will attempt to shed some light into that darkness, in the process getting to know the stories of those who fought in and led these units on that crucial evening. This battlefield walk will consist of short amounts of walking over the paths and grass areas on the incline of Culp's Hill.

Program #7 Outdoor AM/PM: *"and as my mind goes back to the fearful excitement, I marvel at it", the 6th Wisconsin Infantry, July 1, 1863* with Larry Korczyk, Licensed Battlefield Guide

We will cover the battle action of the 6th Wisconsin Infantry on the morning of July 1 and their famous charge upon a railroad cut and a brigade of Mississippians and North Carolinians. In the late morning of July 1, the 6th Wisconsin, in a reserve position for the Iron Brigade, which had been ordered to move into farmer John Herbst's woodlot to battle a brigade of Tennesseans and Alabamians, will be ordered to the north side of the Chambersburg Pike to conduct a counterattack to retrieve the fortunes of the Union forces after General Lyssander Cutler's

April 17 – 18, 2026 SPRING MUSTER

6th Wisconsin Monument courtesy of loc.gov



brigade had been routed by the brigade of General Joe Davis. The 6th Wisconsin, along with the 95th NY and the 84th NY, would eventually charge upon the Confederate soldiers, who had taken position within an unfinished railroad cut, and succeed in capturing over 230 Confederate soldiers. After the battle there will be a war of words between the Union participants of the charge upon the railroad cut for the honor of who initiated the charge and who can claim ultimate victory. This program includes a short walk of about 400 yards from McPherson Ridge in front of Herbst Woods to the Railroad Cut.

Program #8 Outdoor AM/PM: *The Recon of Capt. Samuel Johnston* with Chris Army, Licensed Battlefield Guide

This tour will explore the reconnaissance conducted by Confederate Captain Samuel R Johnston on the morning of July 2, 1863. There is not a lot in the way of primary sources related to this recon, however, it became a point of contention as veterans argued the impact it had on the fight on July 2nd. We will explore the possible routes the recon party took and if it did, in fact, have an impact on Longstreet's attack later in the day. Expect mild walking over even ground.

FIRST CORPS EVENT

Sunday Morning Breakfast



Sunday, April 19

The Gettysburg Film Commission Program showcases Gettysburg's historic architecture and scenic landscapes as premier settings for film, television and documentary productions. Serving as the community's link to the film industry, the commission assists filmmakers in bringing their stories to life throughout Gettysburg and the surrounding region by providing local expertise, logistical support and access to unique locations.

Film Commissioner **Kris Webb**, a lifelong Gettysburg resident, business owner and member of the historic Weikert family, brings a deep understanding of the town's heritage to her role as liaison between Hollywood and Gettysburg.

This program highlights the behind-the-scenes experiences of recent productions—such as *Gettysburg 1863*—and explores how facilitating these projects has reshaped Kris Webb's perspective on the community she's always called home.

Want to be a First Corps Member? You can become one today! Contact Bethany Yingling, Friends Membership Program Manager at 717-339-2148.

SPRING MUSTER

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Member #: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Guest(s): _____

Guest Address: _____ Guest City/State/Zip: _____

Guest Email: _____

☐ **Friday Evening Program** _____ x \$15.00 per member = _____
(lunch included in cost) _____ x \$25.00 per non-member = _____

☐ **Saturday Programs** _____ x \$130.00 per member = _____
_____ x \$150.00 per non-member = _____

AM Program (please check one)

- ☐ Program #1 Indoor: *George Meade: A Lifetime Preparing to be a Leader*
- ☐ Program #3 Outdoor: *A Soldier's General, Lafayette McLaw*
- ☐ Program #4 Outdoor: *Hiram Berdan's July 2 Reconnaissance*
- ☐ Program #5 Outdoor: *The Story of the 14th Brooklyn*
- ☐ Program #6 Outdoor: *The Defense of Culp's Hill: The Other Guys*
- ☐ Program #7 Outdoor: *"and as my mind goes back to the fearful excitement, I marvel at it"*
- ☐ Program #8 Outdoor: *The Recon of Capt. Samuel Johnston*

PM Program (please check one)

- ☐ Program #2 Indoor: *No, Reynolds Did Not Receive the Pipe Creek Circular*
- ☐ Program #3 Outdoor: *A Soldier's General, Lafayette McLaw*
- ☐ Program #4 Outdoor: *Hiram Berdan's July 2 Reconnaissance*
- ☐ Program #5 Outdoor: *The Story of the 14th Brooklyn*
- ☐ Program #6 Outdoor: *The Defense of Culp's Hill: The Other Guys*
- ☐ Program #7 Outdoor: *"and as my mind goes back to the fearful excitement, I marvel at it"*
- ☐ Program #8 Outdoor: *The Recon of Capt. Samuel Johnston*

☐ **First Corps Breakfast** _____ x \$30.00 per member = _____
(breakfast included in cost)

Additional Donation = _____

Total = _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

- ☐ Enclosed is my check made payable to Gettysburg Foundation.
- ☐ If you would like to register using a credit card, please scan the QR Code, visit our website at <https://cart.gettysburgfoundation.org/overview/36101> or call the Advanced Sales Office at 717-338-1243.



Please return registration form to Friends of Gettysburg, P.O. Box 4629, Gettysburg, PA 17325
For more information, visit www.gettysburgfoundation.org or call 717-339-2148.

Honoring a Legacy of Dedication: Celebrating 35+ Years of Our Friends of Gettysburg Community

In 2026, we are excited to honor those of our Friends of Gettysburg who have been members of the Gettysburg Foundation (and earlier the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg) for 35 years or more. Without the support of this original group, we would not be here today and look at all we have accomplished!

Thank you to all our members for being the beating heart of this organization.

Ms. Penny Alkire	Mr. and Mrs. David Maguire
Mr. George A. Balint	Mr. Michael P. Mandrick
Mr. Terry L. Baylor	Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Marple
Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Bernstine	Mr. Robert R. Martin
Mr. Edwin G. Bilof	Mr. Richard A. Masson
Ms. Helene E. Branagan	Mr. Michael J. Matarese
Mr. Brian R. Carroll	Mr. Mark L. Matson
Ms. Catherine A. Chatowski	Mr. Terence P. Mulroy
Ms. Kathy Lou Colmorgen	Mr. and Mrs. John D. Nelson
Mr. Leonard C. Commini Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. John K. Peterson
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel A. Conner	Mr. Charles A. Pozarycki Jr.
Mr. Jeffrey Cox	Mr. Edward C. Ramos
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne E. Deem	Mr. Chris Ripple
John E. Estok D.M.D.	Mr. and Mrs. William F. Rixham
Mr. and Mrs. Eric S. Fischer	Mr. James C. Roach
Mr. David G. Frank	Albert H. Santora M.D.
Mr. Arthur C. Germano	LT Christopher Sedlak
Mrs. Victoria B. Greenlee	Dr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Shemory
Mr. Jeffrey C. Hall	Mr. and Mrs. Steven J. Smith
Ms. Susan M. Hauck and Ms. Mary Y. Lopez-Hauck	Daniel J. Smuro M.D.
Ms. Brenda J. Healy	Mr. and Mrs. Cecil W. Snow
Mr. and Mrs. Gary D. Heydinger	Mr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Spring
COL Lawrence Hillebrand	Mr. Thomas J. Stenhouse
Dr. and Mrs. Allan J. Hordof	CAPT and Mrs. David A. Sulin
Mr. James A. Kilgore Jr.	Ms. Pansy M. Thompson
Mr. Stephen B. Killian	Mr. Robert P. Watson
Mr. Calvin B. Kinsel Jr.	Mr. Stephen J. Wessman
Mr. Edward M. Kushner	Ms. Cynthia L. Williams
Mr. Norman La Force	Mr. Terrance J. Yount
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony W. Livermore	Mr. Vincent J. Zito



P.O. Box 4629
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gettysburg
Foundation

Enjoy Gettysburg Foundation Events all year!

Musters

Weekend-long events in the Spring and Fall featuring tours and programs with Licensed Battlefield Guides and historians, banquets and unique experiences.

Volunteer Work Day

An opportunity to participate in hands-on preservation projects on the battlefield, Eisenhower National Historic Site, and Foundation-owned sites.

First Corps Event

Special opportunities for First Corps members include a breakfast at Spring Muster and a weekend program.

Remembrance Illumination

Friends sponsor luminary candles that our volunteers place on each grave at Gettysburg National Cemetery in commemoration of the sacrifices made at Gettysburg.

Sacred Trust

Exclusive lectures, receptions and presentations in the first week of July in honor of the Gettysburg Battle Anniversary.

Society Events

Society members are invited to exclusive events such as battlefield tours, programs and pre-event receptions with special guests. Society levels include 1863 Society, Gettysburg Society, etc.



Scan for a full list of upcoming events on the
special events page at www.gettysburgfoundation.org.
ALL PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.