

# The Bugle



Quarterly Journal of the  
Camp Curtin Historical Society  
and Civil War Round Table, Inc.

Winter 2013  
Volume 23, Number 4

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*"The field upon which we now stand will be known as classic ground, for here has been the great central point of the organization of our military forces. When my administration of public affairs will have been forgotten and the good and evil will be only known to the investigation of the antiquarian, Camp Curtin, with its memories and associations, will be immortal."*

- Governor Andrew Curtin, 1865

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## 2014 Upcoming Camp Curtin Events

Schedule subject to change. Updates in future issues of *The Bugle*.

### **February 23 - Lincoln Presentation**

Charles Teague will speak on "How Mr. Lincoln Came to be 'Under God' at Gettysburg" at the Camp Curtin Church [see back cover for complete details].

### **May 18 - Louisiana Tigers Presentation**

Ben Duke will speak on "The Civil War Adventures of my Reb-Yank Grandfather: A Louisiana Tiger at Gettysburg – On His Way to Harrisburg" at the National Civil War Museum.

### **June 21-22 - Civil War Days**

The annual commemoration of the Confederate invasion of Cumberland County and the Union defense of the Harrisburg area.

### **August 9 - Summer Picnic**

Our annual picnic for members and friends will be in the pavilion at Negley Park, Lemoyne.

### **September 7 - Harrisburg Cemetery Tours**

Join us on a walk through history and meet the "residents" of the Harrisburg Cemetery



## Free Civil War Dance Classes

The Victorian Dance Ensemble, performing troupe Civil War Dance Foundation, will offer free Civil War Dance Classes at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, 2:00-4:00PM, Sundays, January 12, February 9 and March 16, 2014. Reservations are required, telephone 717-732-5330 or email [Info@CivilWarDance.org](mailto:Info@CivilWarDance.org).

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**Cover: A Model 1863 Springfield Rifle Musket, Pattern 1850 Foot Officer's Sword and Model 1851 Colt Navy Revolver rest on a reproduction of a Pennsylvania State Regimental Color.**

## **Camp Curtin Historical Society and Civil War Round Table**

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# The Marines at Gettysburg in 1922

*Richard Kohr, a Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide, gave an excellent presentation on the 1922 United States Marine Corps training maneuvers on the Gettysburg Battlefield at our November meeting. Below is an article that appeared in the Gettysburg Compiler newspaper of July 8, 1922, that gives a summary of the exercises, including the recreation of Pickett's Charge, using 1863 and 1922 tactics, the participation of Civil War veterans and one of the first "invasions" of the small town by that new invention, the automobile.*



During Pickett's Charge, Marines carried Signal Flags rather than the Confederate Battle Flag and banners with the names of the brigade commanders (note Garnett on left).

## **UNITED STATES MARINES GIVE THREE DEMONSTRATIONS OF PICKETT'S CHARGE.**

### **Take Their Departure After a Pleasant but Very Moist Ten Days Visit.**

The United States Marines, six thousand strong, supplemented by a unit from the U.S. Army Medical Department at Carlisle, after a ten days camp have gone. The head of the column of the Fifth and Sixth Regiments of Marines left about daylight on Thursday morning, out the Emmitsburg road with a first stop at Thurmont and then on and on to barracks at Quantico.

The last to leave was the Tenth Artillery. This outfit all ride and they cleaned up the camp and left early Friday morning, their first stop being Frederick. This outfit was so modernly equipped that it was a curiosity to the veterans of 1863. There were no horses to drag the guns, limbers and caissons. Instead a half hundred caterpillar tractors did the work, to each tractor being hitched a cannon, a caisson or other equipment. There were in this train the air guns, the radio truck, the telephone equipment truck, the electric light machinery on trucks, everything modern. Thursday evening the 10th Regiment was in camp along the avenue on Seminary Ridge, ready for the start Friday morning.

The United States Marines made a good impression during their visit. They were well-behaved, most courteous, and hospitable, anxious to entertain in their own camp. They delighted thousands of visitors with the maneuvers on field and in air. Everywhere was heard the regret that General Butler's request for a further ten days sojourn here was turned down.

The Marines traveled in hard luck during their stay at Gettysburg. They either concluded they could not go on exhibition without plenty of their natural element and arranged with the weather bureau for plenty of rain, or that bureau has some grievance against the Marines, for they were simply deluged with rain. A day or two out of their entire stay was without a shower and when it did rain it poured and the great pouring was reserved for the show days of the first four days of July. The camp which otherwise would have been a pleasant one became a mud puddle and the boys were imitating the orders a commander in Civil War days gave his boys when only a marsh could be found in which to camp. "Squat my bullfrogs."

A part of each day last week was given over to a study and rehearsals of Pickett's charge and the routine camp life, with parade in the evening when weather permitted, and all plans led toward the big days. July 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, and they were big days in spite of rain and mud.

### **July First.**

Saturday gave promise of being an exceptional day without rain, and the torrents held back until Pickett's charge was featured for President Harding and party and the witnessing hosts and at the end of the day one of the worst pour-downs came.

The President's party arrived half after three o'clock and was composed of President and Mrs. Harding, General John J. Pershing, Brigadier General Charles D. Dawes, Mrs. Dawes, Brigadier General Charles E. Sawyer and Mrs. Sawyer, Mr. and Mrs. George Christian and two sons, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. McLean, Major Bellinger and Major Taylor, aides to President Harding, and General Pershing's military aides.

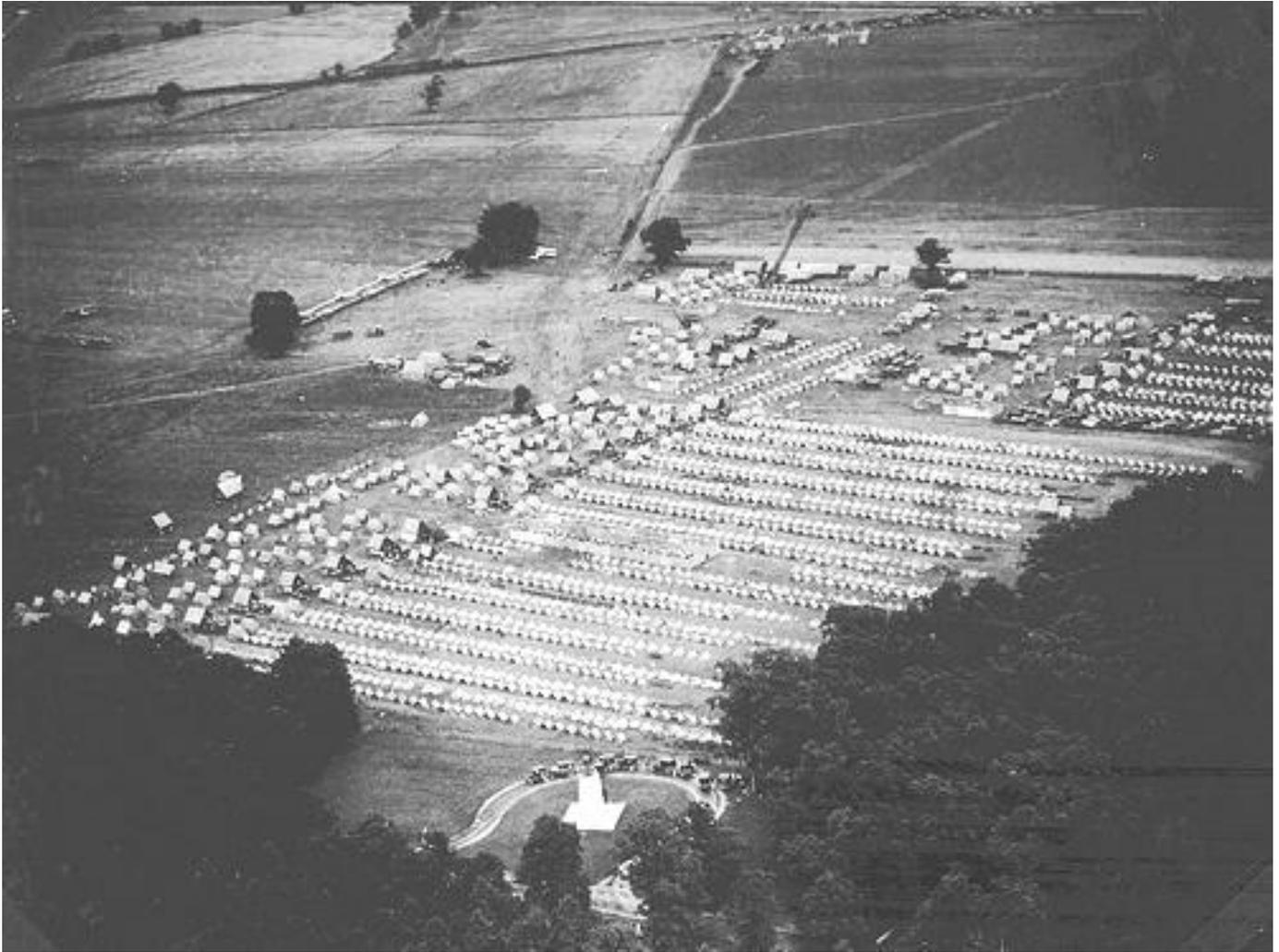


Guests at the "White House Tent" included (front row, left to right) Commandant of the Marine Corps Maj. Gen. John Lejeune, Pennsylvania Governor William Sproul, General of the Armies John Pershing, and President Warren Harding. Behind them in the center is Brig. Gen. Smedley Butler wearing a campaign hat, recipient of two Medals of Honor.

Awaiting the arrival of the President and party were Governor and Mrs. Wm. C. Sproul of Pennsylvania, and Governor Lee Trinkle, of Virginia, Col. Theodore Roosevelt, First Assistant Secretary of the Navy and aide.

In the congressional party were U. S. Senators Medill McCormick, Senator and Mrs. Thomas S. Walsh, of Montana, Senator George Wharton Pepper, of Pennsylvania, and with Congressman Brooks of this district was a number of other members of the House. A special guest was Hon. Thomas S. Butler, of West Chester, and one of the oldest congressmen and father of Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler, commander of Camp Harding.

Among other prominent spectators on Cemetery Ridge were Mrs. Helen Dortch Longstreet, widow of the corps commander whose reluctant order set in motion the disastrous charge; George F. Pickett, 3d grandson of the gallant Virginian who led the charge; Captain Robert E. Carter, of Washington, D.C., wearer of the horizon blue Medal of Honor ribbon, who commanded one of the Federal elements in defense of the ridge; Colonel George A. L. Dumont, military attache of the French Embassy; Captain S. R. Bailey, D. S. O., and wing commander, and M. G. Christie, D. S. O., naval and air attaches, respectively, of the British Embassy; Colonel Marquis V. A. di Bernezzo and Captain Carlo Huntington, respec-



**Aerial view of the Marine encampment on the Pickett's Charge field. The Virginia Monument is at the bottom, center.**

tively, military attache and assistant military attache of the Italian Embassy; Dr. J. B. Hubrecht, secretary of the Netherlands Legation; Captain Osami Nagano and Lieutenant Commander Masahara Hibino, naval attache, and Major General H. Haraguchin, military attache of the Japanese Embassy, and Major Casimir Mach, acting military and naval attache of the Polish Legation.

### **Pickett's Charge.**

Immediately after the arrival of the President the distinguished visitors were escorted to the tower in Ziegler's woods and they had not long to wait the opening gun of artillery duel preceding Pickett's charge when artillery roared at artillery from Seminary and Cemetery Ridges. The firing

of the guns was accompanied with all the old time smoke and after a half hour reproduction of the artillery duel, amid the rattle of musketry Pickett's line was seen to advance through the smoke.

The part of General Pickett was acted by Colonel James K. Tracy, regimental commander of the Fifth Marines. His adjutant was Captain LeRoy P. Hunt, a hero of Belleau Woods. Colonel F. L. Bradman enacted the part of General Longstreet, and General Armistead, who fell mortally wounded at the bloody angle was reproduced by Major William P. Upshur, of Virginia, whose father was wounded while serving the South.

Across the valley and up the slope of the ridge came Pickett's column, and over the fences at the Emmitsburg road the Marines went giving the

Rebel yell and on toward the Bloody Angle. Here Major Upshur staggered from his horse, just as General Armistead had done when his horse was shot from under him. Then Upshur reproduced the original scene as he rushed forward, with hat on his sword, calling his men to give them the cold steel and over the stone fence the host went.



**Fighting at the "High Water Mark"**

Then at the Bloody Angle and all along the line was enacted the retreat raked by the musketry and riflemen with the Marines simulating being wounded and killed and falling.

The charge of the Marines was marked by several incidents that were not planned in the reproduction. One was as follows:

### **Old Vets in Charge.**

Col. J. P. K. Scott, of this place, went to headquarters and asked permission to join in the charge across the valley. He said he was not with his regiment at the battle of Gettysburg, being in Libby prison at time but that the regiment was just east of Hancock avenue at the Bloody Angle, where the monument stands with the kneeling bronze soldier, that his regiment was one of those that met the onslaught of Pickett's men and he desired a place in the charge that he might realize

what his comrades went through. Permission was given Col. Scott and he went along with the Marines in the charge though over 80 years of age, and in going he lost a valuable cane which has not been recovered. The Colonel was delighted with his experience.

Another incident was the two blue clad veterans of '63, Wm. H. Sayer and John Kille, of the Twelfth New Jersey Volunteers, of Clayton, N. J., who as they watched the reproduction became enthused and when two Marines who had fallen in the Angle had offered them their rifles and munition belts they grabbed and with the cheers of the onlookers went to the stone fence and opened fire on the Marines.

Early Saturday evening and again on Sunday evening the finest display of the airplanes took place. There were twelve planes and two Martin bombers in the air Saturday evening and the next day thirteen planes with the two bombers and they presented a rare spectacle as they flew in squadron and circled and recircled the camp.

Saturday came to an end in a down pour of rain with the Presidential party and visitors in retreat in the White House and encircling tents.

### **July Second.**

Sunday opened with field mass by Chaplain Underwood, the Chaplain attached to the Fourth Brigade of Marines. The mass was celebrated at the Virginia monument at 7:30 o'clock.

Shortly afterward the President reviewed the Marines as they passed before him and at the conclusion the Presidential party left by automobile over the Lincoln Highway westward to Marion, Ohio.

### **July Third.**

On Monday, July 3rd, the anniversary of Pickett's charge, a second reproduction took place during the afternoon with an immense concourse of people witnessing the event. This time the charge was made through a murky atmosphere with dark

hanging clouds out of which rain fell intermittently. The smoke of the batteries hung to the earth and the murkiness gave an effect to the scene which made it more real. Again during the night the camp was drenched and many of the boys found places to sleep in town out of the mud of the camp

#### **July Fourth.**

Tuesday morning brought Pickett's charge as it would take place according to up-to-date methods. The continuous roar of cannons was missing but the rattle of rapid fire machine guns was incessant and instead of infantry marching forward shoulder to shoulder they came five or more feet apart, advancing a short distance on the run, then falling and firing, and a little later arising, making another run forward and covering the entire distance in this fashion. There was but one comment among the witnesses that the modern method of a charge was a tame affair alongside the old fashioned kind.

#### **Auto Shows.**

One of the greatest shows of the camp during the ten days was that provided by the automobiles. G. D. Thomas, living on the Lincoln Way west of town, counted the cars on Sunday from 5:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M., and the passenger cars ran up to 1,892, motorcycles 141, passenger trucks 16, commercial trucks 12, and horse drawn vehicles 4, a total of 2,065. The heaviest traffic was from 2 to 4 P.M., when 551 cars passed. The average haul of these cars must have been not far from 5 persons or a total of over ten thousand persons. The York pike undoubtedly brought as many, also the Harrisburg and Emmitsburg roads, and Littlestown, Fairfield, Carlisle and Taneytown roads must have each contributed thousands of cars and people.

The total of cars is somewhat of a guess, but with the above figures as a guide and making allowance that the cars were counted coming and going, there must have been fully 8,000 cars on Sunday, two or three thousand more on Monday and a further increase again on July 4th, to 12,000 or 15,000 cars and the total population of this

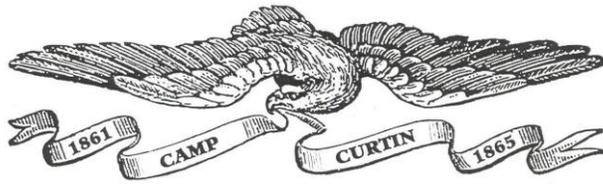
community and battlefield on July 4th must have been between 60,000 and 75,000, surely gigantic figures but it was a procession of cars such as the town had never seen.

One of the features of July 4th preceding the charge was the assault on the blimp, the sausage balloon. The attack was made by an airplane. One of the great glistening envelopes was seen to burst into flames and from the suspended basket an object fell, opening as it plunged into a parachute from which the figure seemingly of a man was suspended. As inflation gas burst from the burning aperture in the silken bag the flames rose a hundred feet and in a column of black smoke the blazing mass fell to the ground. As it fell several figures were thrown free of the smoke cloud and the picture was one of tragedy, a tragedy so common to modern warfare. The release of the parachute with its passenger was a mechanical contrivance and the suspended figure a dummy and the other passengers precipitated were dummies. The great blimp was condemned because of faulty construction and its destruction had been one of the events of the camp the Marines had looked forward to.

One of the plans for the camp that went awry was the parking places for automobiles. Six places had been provided and would have furnished excellent points of view on the battlefield for parking, but the rains made the grounds so soft that many cars had to be dragged from their parking points by tractors.

The Carlisle Unit made an interesting exhibit of their equipment, a wagon litter for bringing wounded from the field, a combat wagon instead of an old ambulance, a wagon to remove wounded animals, and repair wagons.

A Marine Commander was honored with a French Decoration while here. Colonel Dumont, French military attache at Washington, presented to Major Maurice E. Shearer, senior battalion commander of the marine brigade, the Cross of the Legion of Honor. Major Shearer served with distinction in the marine brigade at the Marne salient.



## *The Camp Curtin Historical Society*

presents

**Charles Teague**

speaking on

### **How Mr. Lincoln Came to be “Under God” at Gettysburg**

**2:00PM, Sunday, February 23, 2014**

*at the Camp Curtin Memorial-Mitchell United Methodist Church  
2221 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*

Dr. Teague will relate how the Battle of Gettysburg had a transforming impact upon the President's view of faith. Lincoln had been skeptical of religion, indeed a scoffer and self-admitted infidel, through much of his early life. But 1862-1863 was a period of profound personal reflection for him, out of which he expressed faith in ways inconceivable earlier. Upon coming to Gettysburg for the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery, he was exacting in crafting fitful words he could recite verbatim. Yet in the inspiration of the moment, he added two crucial words, that ours is a nation "under God." Thereafter he was consistent in expressing his new-found reliance upon God in conversations with close friends and in the stirring words of his Second Inaugural speech. Most people think they know Lincoln, but many will be surprised to hear the surprising change that came over him.

Charles "Chuck" Teague has been a Park Ranger for the past eleven seasons at Gettysburg National Military Park. He is a retired Lieutenant Colonel who holds a Doctor of Law degree with a specialization in International Affairs from Cornell University, as well as a seminary degree. He has served as President of the Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable and Historic Gettysburg Adams County, and Historian for the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania. "Gettysburg By the Numbers" is a popular pocket guide to the battle that he compiled. He has been a featured speaker for the Civil War Institute, the Civil War Trust, the Gettysburg Foundation, and numerous military, business, and civic groups, in addition to many Civil War Round Tables.

**This presentation is free. Bring a friend.**

**The program will be preceded by the Camp Curtin Historical Society's  
annual meeting, including presentation of reports and elections**

**For information call 717-732-5115 or email [genjenkins@aol.com](mailto:genjenkins@aol.com)**