

The Bugle



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

Fall 2021
Volume 31, Number 3



Army



Navy

Civil War Medal of Honor

“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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In Memoriam

John B. Horner of Gettysburg passed away at age 92 on August 19, 2021. He was descended from one of the oldest families in Adams County, his ancestors having come to the area from Ireland, about 1760. Until September 2020, he lived in a house built by his great-great-grandfather, Alexander L. Horner, in 1819. He was a member of the Camp Curtin Historical Society and also belonged to the Adams County Historical Society, Historic Gettysburg-Adams County, Gettysburg Civil War Round Table, Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association, and the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania. He was the sole proprietor of Horner Enterprises, specializing in publications, re-enactment presentations and artwork having to do with the American Civil War. He wrote extensively about his ancestors who were involved in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. He was the author/editor of six books about the Battle of Gettysburg and the Civil War. He was a licensed Gettysburg Town Guide.

Emails Needed

If you have not been receiving emails from CCHS, we ask that you send it to campcurtin@verizon.net. We use the emails to send meeting notices to members and, if necessary, notices of cancellations. It is usually about six messages a year so you will not be inundated with emails, and we do not share our list with other organizations.

COVER –The Army and Navy versions of the Civil War Medal of Honor.

The Camp Curtin Historical Society and Civil War Round Table, Inc., is a non-profit corporation chartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Contributions are tax deductible under IRC Section 501(c)(3). The Society is properly registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State as a charitable organization. A copy of the registration and financial information may be obtained by telephoning toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Camp Curtin Historical Society and Civil War Round Table

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Harrisburg Cemetery Tours



Camp Curtin's Annual Tours of the Harrisburg Cemetery on September 12 attracted a nice crowd despite the pandemic. Many non-members of the Society attended to learn about local our history. Jim Schmick led visitors around to the graves of Pennsylvania Personalities of the Civil War and related their stories. George Nagle covered Harrisburg's Anti-Slavery Families. Bruce Horner told the history of other Notables of South Central Pennsylvania buried in the cemetery. Living Historians Jeff and Dianne Witmer (on the left of the photo) portrayed Harrisburg's Civil War Mayor Augustus Rounfort and his wife, Mary.

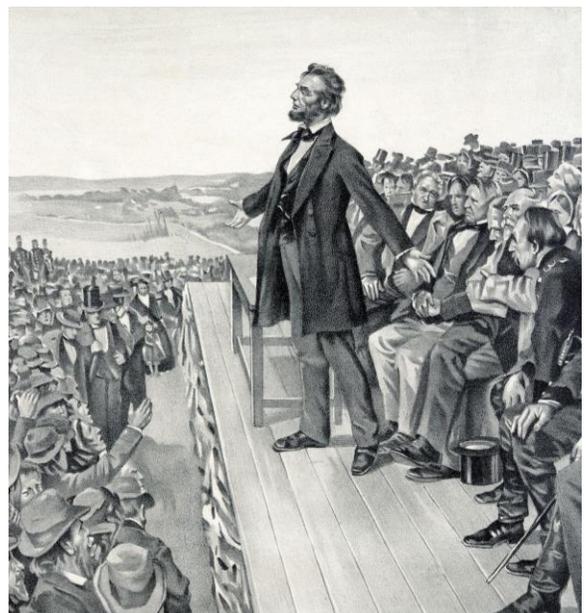
Gettysburg Address Anniversary

President Abraham Lincoln delivered his immortal Gettysburg Address at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery on November 19, 1863. Each year it is commemorated by two special events. Dedication Day is held on the actual date of the speech and Remembrance Day is held on the Saturday closest to the anniversary.

On Friday, November 19, the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania will hold its annual Dedication Day ceremony in the National Cemetery at 10:15AM. Noted historian Dr. Gary Gallagher will deliver the Dedication Day keynote address. A Lincoln portrayer will recite the Gettysburg Address, and the U.S. Immigration Service will hold a naturalization ceremony for new citizen candidates.

On Saturday, November 20, the Sons of Union Veterans will hold its annual Remembrance Day in Gettysburg. It includes a parade by Union and Confederate descendant organizations and reenactor units through the streets of Gettysburg beginning at 1:00PM. The best viewing area is on Steinwehr Avenue between Baltimore Street and the Gettysburg Park entrance. There is also a wreath laying ceremony

at the Grand Army of the Republic's Woolson Monument on Hancock Avenue in Gettysburg National Military Park, and the National Civil War Ball in the evening, with music by the Philadelphia Brigade Band and dancing led by the Victorian Dance Ensemble.



Civil War Medal of Honor

Prior to the Civil War, the Army and Navy had no standard medals or decorations to honor bravery or outstanding service. During the American Revolution, George Washington had created the Award of Military Merit, a silk purple heart with white trim to be sewn on the breast of the uniform, but only three were awarded. This “patch” was never made a permanent award and was forgotten until 1932 when it was revived as the Purple Heart Medal.

During the Revolution and other wars, Congress did award specially struck gold medals to commanders for victories, usually showing the man’s profile on the front and a battle scene on the back. These medals were not designed to be worn; they were about three inches in diameter and had no ribbon or pin. Lower ranking officers under the recipient’s command were often given silver or bronze copies of the medal. Congressionally authorized gold medals are still presented today, usually to civilians for distinguished public service.

The Mexican War saw the first award for the common soldier. Certificates of Merit were presented to those men who distinguished themselves in battle. Such an honor entitled the man to extra pay of two dollars per month.

Early attempts to create a medal for bravery were blocked by Army commander Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott, who thought decorations were a European royal tradition not suitable for a democracy. Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles liked the idea and in December 1861, Congress passed a bill to create "*medals of honor to be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen, and marines as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and other seaman-like qualities during the present war.*" After General Scott’s retirement, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill creating the Army Medal of Honor in July 1862, authorizing its presentation “*to such*

non-commissioned officers, and privates, as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldierly qualities, during the present insurrection.” Initially, officers in neither service were eligible for the medals since officers were expected to be brave in combat.



The Medal for both services was a bronze star, point down, showing the goddess Minerva, with shield, representing the Union, fending off Discord clutching snakes, representing the foul spirit of secession. The scene was surrounded by thirty-four stars, the number of states in the Union at the time (the Southern states were included since the North deemed secession to be illegal and they were still a part of the nation). The ribbon was blue across the top, with red and white stripes below. The Army and Navy Medals differed only in the ribbon attachments. The Army used an eagle and crossed cannon barrels while the Navy used an anchor and star (see cover). In the years after the Civil War, the ribbon was changed. The Army changed the design of its medal in 1904 but the original design of the star is still used by the Navy today. The Air Force used the Army Medal until 1956 and then created its own version.

In 1863, the legislation was amended to change the requirements by limiting the distinguished acts to those “*in action*,” thus eliminating service in a noncombatant role. Additionally, officers became eligible for the Medal of Honor.

The first Medals of Honor to be presented went to the survivors of the 1862 Andrew’s Raid – The Great Locomotive Chase – but the leader, James Andrews, was ineligible because he was a civilian.

The first act during the Civil War that qualified for a Medal of Honor occurred on May 24, 1861. Sgt. Francis Brownell of the 11th New York Infantry shot and bayoneted the man who shot Colonel Elmer Ellsworth as he captured a Confederate flag flying over a hotel in Alexandria, Virginia. The Medal was not actually presented until 1877. It is interesting to note that the 44th New York Infantry Regiment was nicknamed “The Ellsworth Avengers” in honor of this slain officer.

Pennsylvania’s Col. John Hartranft received the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism while serving with 4th Pennsylvania Militia, in action at the First Battle of Bull Run. Hartranft voluntarily served as an Aide and participated in the battle after the expiration of his unit’s term of service, distinguishing himself in rallying several regiments which had been thrown into confusion. He would later rise to the rank of Major General and be elected Governor of Pennsylvania.

Captain Thomas Custer, George’s brother, was the first soldier to receive two Medals of Honor during the Civil War, both for capturing Confederate flags. Flags were extremely important during the Civil War. On chaotic battlefields, flags identified troops, their movement told soldiers where to move and told generals what was happening and they told messengers where to deliver messages. Capturing an enemy flag or protecting your own flag from capture was one of the most common acts that warranted award of the Medal of Honor.

George Roosevelt, President Franklin Roosevelt’s third cousin, served with the 26th Pennsylvania

Infantry and received one Medal for two acts of bravery – rescuing his own regiment’s color that had been captured by a Confederate at 2nd Bull Run and capturing a Confederate color bearer and flag at Gettysburg.

Nineteen year old Arthur MacArthur of the 24th Wisconsin Infantry received the Medal for heroism at Lookout Mountain, Tennessee. When the regiment’s color bearer was shot down, MacArthur grabbed the flag and urged the men forward, and they captured the Confederate position and forced their retreat. Years later, his son, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, also earned the Medal of Honor for his actions in World War II, making them one of only two father-son duos to do so. The other pair were President Theodore Roosevelt, who earned it during the Spanish-American War, and his son, Theodore Roosevelt Jr., who served during World War II.

Many of the Medals were awarded long after the War. From 1862 to 1917, 2,431 Medals of Honor were awarded for acts of gallantry during the Civil War.

Ultimately, 911 Medals would be revoked in 1917 when standards were raised and the rolls cleared of what were deemed undeserved presentations because they did not involve gallantry in action. The largest group were 864 presented to the 27th Maine Infantry Regiment for remaining in the defenses of Washington during the Gettysburg campaign after their term of enlistment had expired. Another twenty-nine presented to the military escorts of the Lincoln funeral train were also revoked.

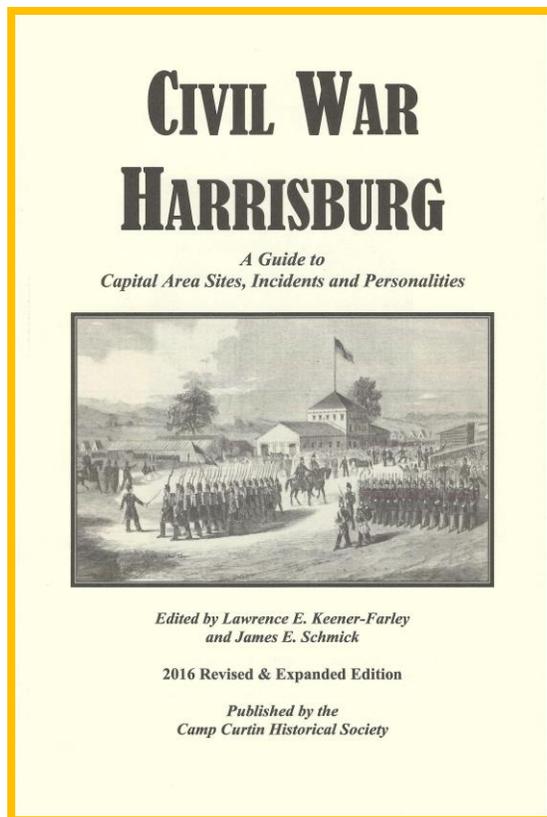
Dr. Mary Walker served as a contract assistant surgeon during the Civil War, treating soldiers and civilians. She was captured by the Confederates and imprisoned for four months and then released in a prisoner exchange. On the recommendation of Generals Sherman and Thomas, she was awarded the Medal of Honor for meritorious service after the War, the only woman to receive the Medal. It was revoked in 1917, but it was restored by Congress in 1977.

Civil War Harrisburg

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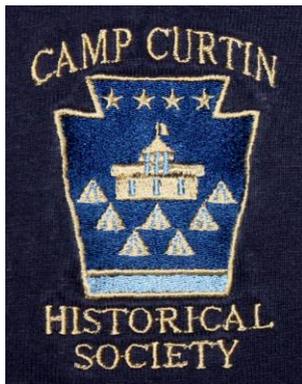
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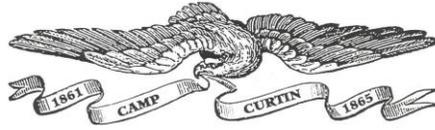
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The Camp Curtin Historical Society
presents

Ron Kirkwood

speaking on his book

*Too Much for Human Endurance:
The George Spangler Farm Hospitals
and the Battle of Gettysburg*

This presentation will cover the suffering and heroism of the surgeons, nurses, wounded and mortally wounded at the two hospitals on the Spanglers' land. It will also examine newly found information about the Spangler family, the Union Army Artillery Reserve located at the farm and Confederate Brig. Gen. Lewis Armistead, who was wounded during Pickett's Charge and later died at the farm.

Ron Kirkwood is a graduate of Central Michigan University and longtime newspaper and magazine writer and editor. He has been a Gettysburg Foundation guide at the George Spangler Farm Civil War Field Hospital Site since 2013.

This presentation is free. Bring a friend.

2:00PM, Sunday, November 14

at the Christian Life Assembly Church

2645 Lisburn Road, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

DIRECTIONS: From U.S. Route 15, take Slate Hill Road Exit, go south on Slate Hill Road, turn left at second traffic light onto Lisburn Road. Church is down the road on the right.

Use the West Parking Entrance across from the blue water tower.

Enter the church through the main entrance under the carport.

BRING A MASK IN CASE THEY ARE REQUIRED AND SEATING WILL BE SPREAD OUT.

If the presentation is cancelled, we will post a notice on our Website www.campcurtin.org, our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CampCurtinHistoricalSociety/>, and send an email to all members for whom we have an email address. For more information, telephone 717-732-5115 or email genjenkins@aol.com.