

# The Bugle



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

Summer 2013  
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*New Wayside Marker in Lemoyne*

*"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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### **October 20 Monument Clean-Up**

The Camp Curtin Historical Society will hold its fall clean-up of the 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry monument site at Gettysburg on Sunday, October 20. Last spring's "Adopt a Position" clean-up (right) included Jim Schmick, George Nagle, Jeff Witmer and Tim Pastula.



Volunteers are needed to pick-up trash that has accumulated during the summer tourist season. Please gather at the Peace Light Memorial at 1:00PM. Bring trash bags, and gloves are suggested. Afterwards, there will be a brief tour of several monuments. For more information, contact Jim Schmick at 717-732-5115.

### **November 10 Presentation**

Camp Curtin Historical Society's November meeting will feature a presentation on the 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry by Richard Kohr at 2:00PM, Sunday, November 10, at the National Civil War Museum. Come out and learn about the regiment that was raised at Camp Curtin and is our "Adopt a Position" monument at Gettysburg.

Kohr is the past president of the Association of Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guides, a graduate of Lebanon Valley College and a continuing education instructor for Harrisburg Area Community College.

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**Cover:** New wayside marker placed by the Camp Curtin Historical Society in Lemoyne explains the history of Fort Washington and the surrounding area during the Confederate invasion of Cumberland County in June 1863.

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# New Wayside Marker Placed in Lemoyne

The Camp Curtin Historical Society, in cooperation with the Gateway Historical Society of Lemoyne and the Borough of Lemoyne, placed a wayside marker on Indiana Street above Negley Park. The marker includes illustrations and maps of the area in 1863.

The marker explains the history of Fort Washington and the surrounding area during the Confederate invasion of Cumberland County in June 1863. The marker was placed near a scenic overlook (right) that provides visitors with a beautiful view of the Harrisburg skyline.



This is the first of several wayside markers planned by Camp Curtin as an adjunct to the markers placed by the Pennsylvania Civil War Trails Project several years ago. The new markers will fill in some of the gaps in the story line and provide a more complete history of our local Civil War history. Donations for the project may be sent to Camp Curtin at Post Office Box 5601, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

## Marker Text

As Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell's Confederate Second Corps advanced on Harrisburg in June 1863, Union Maj. Gen. Darius N. Couch, charged with the defense of the city, recognized the need for a series of defensive fortifications to be constructed on Bridgeport Heights. Shortly after Couch arrived in Harrisburg, local citizens were encouraged to volunteer to build the defenses. On June 15, the work began in earnest, with a reported 1,000 men patriotically assisting. By the following morning, however, only a fraction of the civilian volunteers remained. Their places were filled by workers from the Pennsylvania Railroad and Canal, who received a daily wage of \$1.25.

Constructed hastily by a workforce with little military experience, the fortifications were not overly impressive from a military standpoint and had numerous potentially deadly defects in battle. Christened Fort Washington, the earthworks measured about two hundred by six hundred yards. Unfortunately, Fort Washington was constructed on the lower, militarily-unfavorable portion of Bridgeport Heights. To protect the misplaced fortress, a smaller earthwork called Fort Couch was erected a short distance farther west at what is now the intersection of 8th and Indiana Streets.

Camp Couch - separate from Fort Couch - was established between the two forts. Many New York National Guard and Pennsylvania Militia regiments were encamped there throughout the summer of 1863. The steepness of Bridgeport Heights, however, made the hill a treacherous location for a camp. By one account, eight horses and twenty men were required to haul just one cannon up to the encampment. Many complaints survive from infantrymen in Camp Couch, who slid down the steep slope during their slumber. The difficult terrain complicated many ordinary tasks, such as drill, for the soldiers. "We can show no fancy appearance of [c]amp," wrote one New York soldier in Camp Couch, "as it is on the summit of a very high hill... above the Susquehanna. There is not a level spot on it, and every parade drill or sentry walk has to be [done] with one foot much lower down than the other."



## Union Gettysburg Monuments

# Stories in Stone and Bronze

The monuments at Gettysburg were erected to memorialize the heroic actions of units and individual soldiers.

While all of the monuments help tell the story of the Battle of Gettysburg, some of them display dramatic sculptures depicting specific incidents, and individuals during the great battle or they have unusual designs that often raise questions.



**The 143rd Pennsylvania Infantry** monument on the Chambersburg Pike shows a soldier holding a flag and shaking his fist. This incident occurred during the fighting on July 1st as the 143rd was retreating back from McPherson's Ridge. Sergeant Benjamin Crippen turned back several times and shook his fist at the advancing Confederates. He was eventually shot and killed. Confederate General A. P. Hill who saw the incident was reported to have regretted the death of such a brave man.



**The 116th Pennsylvania Infantry** monument is perhaps the most somber memorial on the field. While most monuments depict battle scenes, heroic deeds, steadfast soldiers or patriotic motifs, the 116th shows a dead soldier lying on the field after the battle. The 116th was the only Pennsylvania regiment in the famed Irish Brigade. On the second day of the battle, the Irish Brigade made a gallant charge across the Wheatfield. The inspiration for the monument came from Major St. Clair Mulholland, who commanded the regiment in the battle. He never forgot the body of a young man that he saw and thought that it would be a fitting tribute to all of the young men who gave their lives to save the Union.



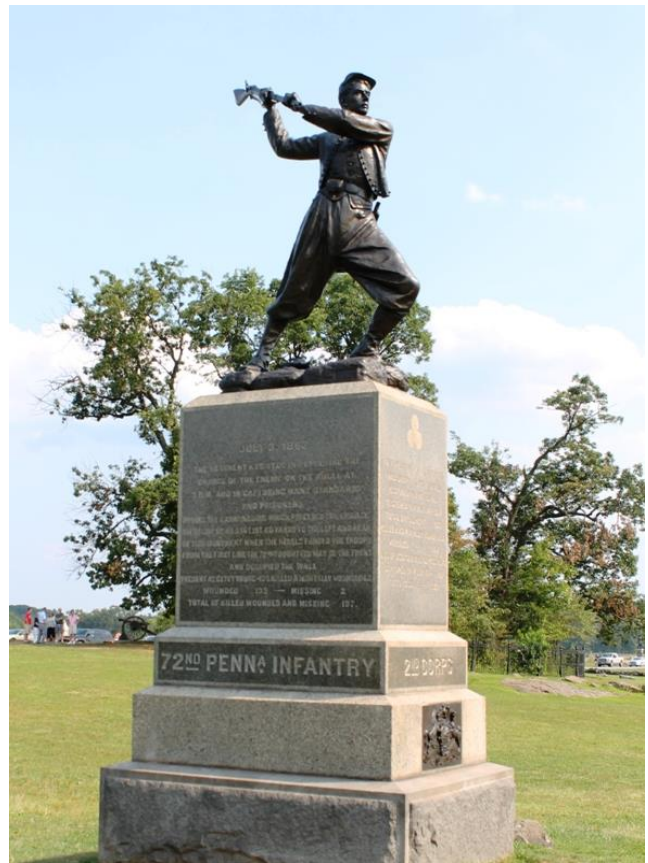
**The 106th Pennsylvania Infantry** monument has three granite drums on top, a seemingly inter-esting display of military equipment. In reality, the drums are a clever depiction of the 2nd Army Corps trefoil (three leaf clover) insignia that the men wore on their caps.





**The 83rd Pennsylvania Infantry** was part of the brigade commanded by Colonel Strong Vincent, who had been the 83rd's regimental commander. On July 2, Vincent took the initiative and rushed his brigade to Little Round Top and placed it in a defensive position. Within minutes, the Confederates attacked and the brigade held that important little hill.

Unfortunately, Vincent was wounded during the fighting. That night, Gen. Meade sent a message to Washington asking that Vincent be promoted to brigadier general. It is unknown if Vincent knew of his promotion when he died on July 7. The 83rd's veterans wanted to honor their former commander and the sculpture is clearly Strong Vincent (right) but officially it portrays a generic officer.



**The 72nd Pennsylvania Infantry**, also known as the Philadelphia Fire Zouaves, was part of Gen. Alexander Webb's Philadelphia Brigade that held the stone wall at the angle against Pickett's Charge on July 3. Initially in reserve behind the battle line, the 72nd moved forward as the Confederates started to cross the wall. They engaged the rebels in hand-to-hand combat as depicted in the monument. Interestingly, the monument is similar to Peter Rothermel's 1871 painting of Pickett's Charge (below).

A dispute arose concerning the placement of the 72nd monument. The Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association wanted all monuments placed at the unit's initial position. For the 72nd, this would have been behind the current park road, Hancock Avenue. It took a three year court appeal before the 72nd could place the monument near the stone wall.



**The 66th New York Infantry** monument is somewhat nondescript with little to entice the visitor for a closer look. The 66th was one of the many units that fought in the Wheatfield on July 2nd. The most interesting part of the monument is on the back. A bronze plaque, entitled “Peace and Unity,” shows a Union and Confederate soldier shaking hands and sharing a canteen, an amazing sentiment just 26 years after the battle.



**The 42nd New York Infantry** monument probably generates more questions than any other monument on the battlefield. Were there Native American units at the Battle of Gettysburg? While Native Americans fought for both the North and the South, this marker honors men from New York City.

The regiment was raised by the New York Tammany Society, named for Delaware Chief Tamenend, who aided the early colonists. Tamenend is portrayed in full regalia in front of his wigwam. Originally founded as a charitable and fraternal organization, the New York City version became a political force and “Tammany Hall” became synonymous with the Democratic Party.





**The 44th New York Infantry** monument also honors the 12th New York Infantry. The castle on Little Round Top is intentionally 44 feet high and the interior chamber is 12 feet square in memory of the unit numbers. The 44th was recruited as “Ellsworth’s Avengers” in honor of Col. Elmer Ellsworth, who was shot in 1861 tearing down a Confederate flag in Alexandria, Va. The 44th was part of Vincent’s Brigade that held Little Round Top on July 2nd.



**The 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry** (Rush’s Lancers) monument depicts a weapon that was not used at Gettysburg. Raised in the Philadelphia area, the unit’s first commander was Col. Richard Rush. Originally the unit was equipped with lances that had proved to be effective in the earlier Napoleonic and Mexican wars. The lances were abandoned

in May 1863 as ineffective against troops armed with long-range rifles and ungainly in wooded areas. At Gettysburg, the regiment was armed with Sharps Carbines and fought on July 3rd on the southern end of the battlefield. The men liked the distinction of being the only lancer regiment in the Union Army and even though they were not used in battle, the veterans put them on their monument.

**The 20th Massachusetts Infantry** monument is a rough hewn boulder known as a “Puddingstone,” native to Massachusetts and the official stone of that state. The marker is a reminder of happier times. The 18 ton rock was brought from a playground in Roxbury, Mass., to honor the men who “. . . had once played around [the rock and] fought so gallantly” at Gettysburg.



The 20th was commanded at Gettysburg by Col. Paul Joseph Revere, grandson of Revolutionary War hero Paul Revere. He was mortally wounded during the fighting on the evening of July 2nd as the Confederates attacked Cemetery Ridge. The next day, the regiment was just south of the copse of trees and helped repulse Pickett’s Charge.



*History comes alive at the  
Camp Curtin Historical Society's*  
**Harrisburg Cemetery Tours**  
**Sunday, September 8th**



All tours will leave from the Caretaker's House at  
12:15PM (Civil War), 12:45 (Underground Railroad) and 1:15 (Harrisburg History)

*Visit the graves and hear the stories of numerous personalities who  
influenced local, state and national events in the 19th century.  
The Civil War tour will cover Lincoln's first Secretary of War, Simon Cameron,  
and Brig. Gen. Joseph Knipe, the man who named Camp Curtin.  
Hear the story of the Confederates buried in Harrisburg,  
admire Maj. Gen. John Geary's beautifully restored monument,  
and see Mary Todd Lincoln's great grandfather's grave.  
The tours will visit dozens of "residents" of the cemetery.*

Adults - \$5.00 (CCHS Members - \$4.00) All children under 16 - \$1.00

The Harrisburg Cemetery is at the eastern end of the State Street Bridge.

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