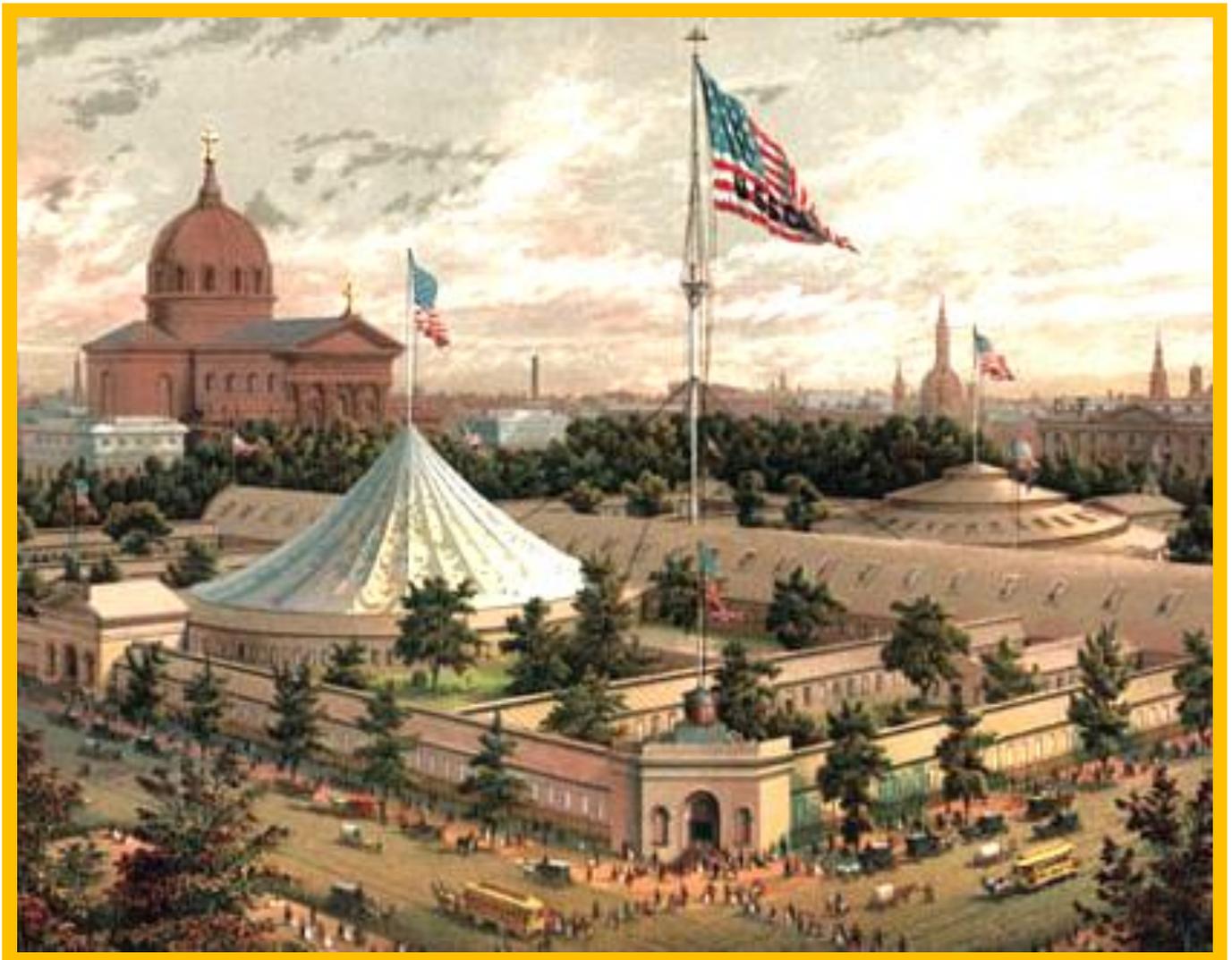


The Bugle



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

Summer 2014
Volume 24, Number 2



*Sanitary Fairs
Aided Northern War Effort*

"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*.

September 7 - Harrisburg Cemetery Tours

Join us on a walk through history and meet the "residents" of the Harrisburg Cemetery (see back page for details).

October 19 – Gettysburg Monument Site Clean-Up

The Camp Curtin Historical Society will hold its fall clean-up of the 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry monument site at Gettysburg National Military Park on Sunday, October 19th. Volunteers are needed to pick-up trash that has accumulated during the summer. Please gather at the Peace Light Memorial at 2:00PM. Bring trash bags; gloves are suggested. For more information call 717-732-5115 or email genjenkins@aol.com.

Restoring Lee's Headquarters

The Civil War Trust has launched a campaign to purchase and restore Gen. Robert E. Lee's Headquarters at Gettysburg. The building is currently a private museum next to a motel and restaurant. Plans call for demolition of non-period buildings and restoring the landscape to its 1860's look. The total cost of the project is \$5.5 million and approximately \$4.4 million has already been raised through grants and private donors. The remaining \$1.1 million needs to be raised by the end of the year. For more information, visit www.CivilWar.org.

We need your email!

As you all know, mailing costs are increasing and it would help us greatly if we had everyone's email. We will be able to send you updates on Society activities and any changes in scheduling. Rest assured, we will not share our email list with any other organization or business. If you have an email, and have not done so, please send us a message at CampCurtin@verizon.net so that we can add it to our list.

Cover: *The Philadelphia Sanitary Fair was held in a temporary structure built in Logan Square in front of the present day Franklin Institute.*

Camp Curtin Historical Society and Civil War Round Table

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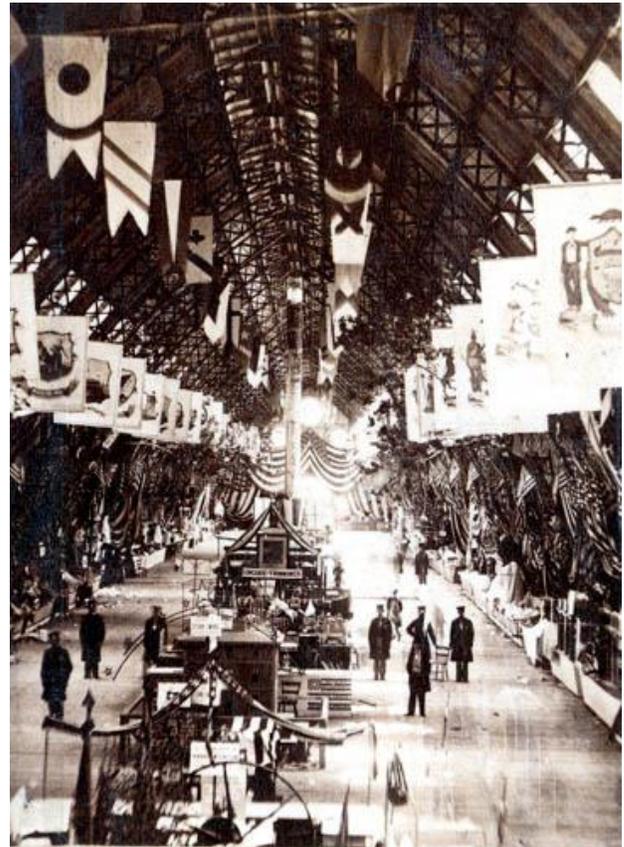
Sanitary Fairs Aided Northern War Effort

The United States Army's Medial Department was totally unprepared for the number of casualties they would have to treat during the Civil War. There was a shortage of surgeons, nurses, medical supplies, ambulances, and hospitals. In the summer of 1861, concerned northern citizens founded the United States Sanitary Commission to aid in treating the wounded. The organization was modeled on the British Sanitary Commission that operated during the Crimean War.

During the war, the USSC raised money and collected donations of medical supplies, food and clothing. They helped to train nurses, organize hospitals, arrange for the transportation of wounded, establish homes for invalid soldiers, and sent delegations into the field to inspect and report on sanitary and medical conditions in army camps. Although the USSC was run by men, most of the work was actually done by women.

Beginning in late 1863 and into 1864, a series of "Sanitary Fairs" were held to raise money for the USSC's activities. Major fairs were held in Baltimore, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Washington, D.C., and other towns held smaller events.

The Philadelphia Fair was held in a temporary structure built in Logan Square (see cover) in front of the present day Franklin Institute. The 200,000 square foot structure was built by volunteers, using donated materials. The main hallway – Union Avenue – was 540 feet long with tall arches. The fair featured displays of military equipment, artwork, inventions, and crafts. Restaurants provided food, and musical groups, acting troupes and puppeteers offered entertainment. The Philadelphia Fair was open for two weeks in June 1864, thousands of people attended, and it raised about \$1,000,000 for the U.S. Sanitary Commission.



"Union Avenue" in the Philadelphia Fair Building.



New inventions, like this sewing machine, were common items on display at sanitary fairs.



A bronze medal was struck for the Philadelphia Fair and was presented to the largest fundraisers and distinguished guests (above). A silver version was given to President Abraham Lincoln when he visited the fair. The medal was designed by Anthony Paquet, a Swiss immigrant who worked for the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. It depicts a Greek maiden handing medicine to an army surgeon who is treating a wounded soldier. The inscription reads: "We give our wealth for those who give their health for us."



Sanitary fairs also ran "post offices" as a fundraiser (above). Fair visitors could write a letter to a friend, but the letter would not be delivered. Lists of names of people who had "mail" waiting for them would be displayed outside the fair. To collect the letter, the person would have to buy an admission ticket to enter the fair and pick-up the letter. The Sanitary Commission even printed and sold its own stamps to affix to the letters (below).



The Philadelphia Sanitary Fair Committee also produced tokens with the bust of George Washington to make change at the fair since there was a shortage of coins during the war (above). The use of Washington was an intentional reminder to the South that it was fighting against the Union that Washington helped to create and who had defended it against earlier rebels during the Whiskey Rebellion.





This center spread from Harper's Weekly newspaper of March 5, 1864, shows some of the activities and displays at the Brooklyn Sanitary Fair that were typical of most fairs, including various Tableaux, Art Gallery, Knickerbocker Hall, Museum, Department of Manufactures and Mechanic Arts, Pictures Donated, Engraving Room, Armory, and New England Kitchen.



Young ladies at the New York City Sanitary Fair selling books and needlework items to raise money for the USSC.

The various fairs solicited donations of items from politicians and military officers to be sold or auctioned off to the highest bidder. President Abraham Lincoln donated signed copies of the Emancipation Proclamation and Governor Andrew Curtin donated autographed copies of his photograph. Several fairs had a "vote for your favorite general" booth, at \$1.00 per vote, and the winner would receive an elaborately decorated dress sword.

The organizers of the fairs tried everything and anything to raise money for the cause. One fair auctioned off a tame bear and another sold trinkets made by Confederate prisoners.

The Sanitary Fairs proved to be great successes, drawing thousands of visitors and raising over \$5 million for the U.S. Sanitary Commission.

Gettysburg Preservation License Plate Approved

You can show your support for Gettysburg Preservation on your car!

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will be issuing special “Gettysburg Monument” license plates, pursuant to Act 109 signed by the governor on July 2, 2014. The plates will cost an additional \$54 over the usual registration and \$23 of that fee will be allocated to a special fund for cleaning, repair and restoration of Pennsylvania monuments at Gettysburg National Military Park. The license plates, which will picture the Pennsylvania Memorial at GNMP, are expected to be available in November.



The plate was advocated by State Representative Harry Readshaw as part of the Pennsylvania Gettysburg Monuments Project that raised funds for the restoration and up-

keep of monuments at the Gettysburg National Military Park. “Readshaw’s Raiders” raised money over the years through the efforts of concerned individuals, school students, reenactor units, CWRTs, civic organizations and businesses.

Each year the Pennsylvania Gettysburg Monuments Project sponsors the Civil War Preservation Ball and the Harrisburg to Gettysburg Motorcycle Ride to raise additional funds. Currently, the project has over \$400,000 in a trust that GNMP uses for maintenance and repair of monuments.

More information will be forthcoming when the application forms and the license plate design are approved.

Descendant Brigade

Membership in the Camp Curtin Descendant Brigade is open to men, women and children (12 years of age or older) who are direct or collateral descendants of a soldier who passed through Camp Curtin from April 18, 1861 to November 11, 1865. Descendants of civilians who worked or volunteered at Camp Curtin are also eligible.



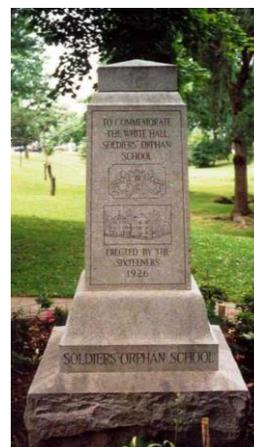
The application fee is \$25.00. Accepted members will receive a membership medal (above), membership certificate, and a one year membership in the Society. Subsequent dues will be \$15.00 per year.

Numerous Pennsylvania units passed through Camp Curtin as well as troops from Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Wisconsin, and the U.S. Regular Army. The Ladies Union Relief Association of Harrisburg is one of the civilian organizations that worked at Camp Curtin.

For more information and an application form, visit our website at www.CampCurtin.org.



Monument Info Sought



We recently discovered that the “Sixteener” monument in Camp Hill’s Willow Park that commemorates the White Hall Civil War Orphan’s School originally had a soldier or student cadet statue on top. If anyone has a photograph or information about the statue, please contact Camp Curtin at CampCurtin@verizon.net.

GNMP Living History Programs

Gettysburg National Military Park will be hosting living history programs with Union and Confederate units at the Pennsylvania Memorial (Stop No. 12 on the Auto Tour) and Pitzer Woods (Stop No. 6). These programs are a great opportunity to see some of the best reenactment units in action, with weapons firing demonstrations, drill and camp life. Maps and information will be available at the Park Visitor Center. For more information, telephone 717-334-1124 ext. 8023, or visit www.nps.gov/gett/. All programs are free.



September 6-7

87th Pennsylvania Infantry, Pa. Mem.
28th Virginia Infantry, Pitzer Woods

September 13-14

1st Texas Infantry, Pitzer Woods

September 20-21

1st North Carolina Artillery, Pitzer Woods

September 27-28

2nd U.S. Cavalry, Co. A, Pitzer Woods

October 4-5

Sharpshooter Weekend

October 11-12

150th New York Infantry, Pa. Mem.

October 18-19

Ohio Valley Civil War Association, infantry, artillery and sharpshooter programs, Pa. Mem.

October 25-26

11th Alabama Infantry, Pitzer Woods

Gettysburg Remembrance and Dedication Days

On Saturday, November 15, 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, a ceremony at the Grand Army of the Republic's Woolson Monument, and a formal Civil War ball in the evening. For more information, visit www.suvcw.org.

On Wednesday, November 19, the exact anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania will hold its **Dedication Day** ceremony in the National Cemetery. For more information, visit www.lincolnfellowship.org.

Harrisburg CWRT Speakers

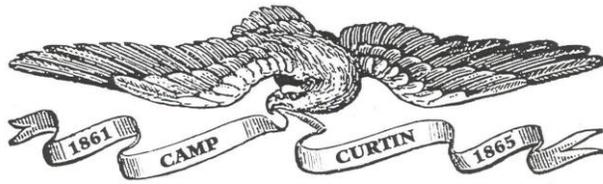
The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table meets on Friday evenings at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel on the Camp Hill By-Pass. There is a dinner that requires reservations before the program. The lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.harrisburgcwrt.org.

September 26 - Frank O'Reilly, "Lee and Grant in the Overland Campaign: Masters of War"

October 24 - James I. "Bud" Robertson, "Whatever Happened to . . .?"

November 21 - Edward Bonekemper, "Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the War"

December 12 - John Hoptak, "Before the Crater: The 48th Pennsylvania at Petersburg, June, 1864"



History comes alive at the Camp Curtin Historical Society's

Harrisburg Cemetery Tours **Sunday, September 7th**



**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.