

The Bugle

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



Spring 2021
Volume 31, Number 1



Lincoln's First Inauguration

"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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Annual Meeting

The Camp Curtin Historical Society held its annual Meeting on March 7th. The By-Law amendments that were sent to all members were approved and are now in effect. In the election, all officers were reelected – President James Schmick, Vice President Lawrence Keener-Farley, Secretary Jeffrey Witmer and Treasurer Annette Keener-Farley. Joseph Boslet and Stuart Brown were elected to open seats on the board of directors.

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.

Dues Reminder

In November we mailed out 2021 dues notices. If you have not already "reenlisted," we hope you will. You can find the enlistment form on our website at www.campcurtin.org/enlistment-form.

COVER – Abraham Lincoln's first inauguration was held on March 4, 1861. The new dome of the Capitol Building was under construction at the time as seen in the upper right of the photograph. A crowd estimated at 25,000 witnessed the historic event.

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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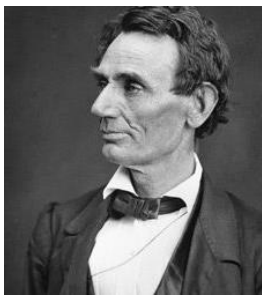
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160th Anniversary

Lincoln's First Inauguration

Election of 1860

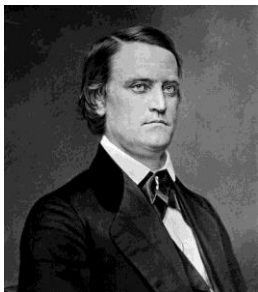
The 1860 election was a contentious race, with four candidates running for President. Slavery was the main issue, especially the spread of it into the new western territories. Lincoln, the Republican nominee, would allow slavery in the South where it already existed but opposed its extension into the new territories.



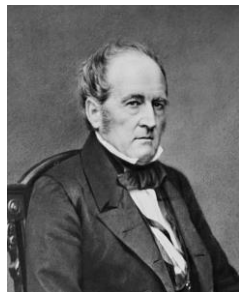
Lincoln



Douglas



Breckinridge



Bell

The Democratic Party split that year. The Northern wing of the Democratic Party nominated Illinois Senator Stephen Douglas, who supported the idea of popular sovereignty, which allowed each territory to decide whether or not to permit slavery. Southern Democrats, supporting the right of slavery anywhere, nominated John Breckinridge of Kentucky, the Vice President under President Buchanan. The Constitutional Union Party, seeking to mediate the slavery issue by compromise, nominated former Tennessee Senator John Bell.

Lincoln, who did not appear on the ballot in twelve Southern states, won less than forty percent of the popular vote but carried all of the electoral votes from the Northern states and won the election.

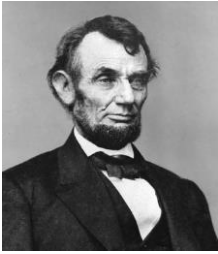
Southern Reaction to Election

In response to Lincoln's election and in spite of his policy not to interfere with slavery in the South, South Carolina seceded from the Union on December 20, 1860. In its "Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession," South Carolina charged that the Northern states had failed to enforce the fugitive slave laws, supported the underground railroad, fomented slave insurrections, and that they had "united in the election of a man to the high office of President of the United States, whose opinions and purposes are hostile to slavery." By February 1, 1861, six more states – Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas – had also left the Union. The nation was tearing itself apart as Lincoln prepared to assume office.

Lincoln's Trip to Washington

Rather than traveling directly to Springfield to Washington for his inauguration, Lincoln made a tour of major Northern cities and state capitals to give speeches and rally support for the Union. He visited Indianapolis, Columbus, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Albany, New York City, Philadelphia, and Harrisburg. While in Harrisburg, Lincoln was informed of an assassination plot in Baltimore so his staff arranged for him to leave Harrisburg by special train so he passed through Baltimore in the middle of the night rather than during the day as previously announced.

Lincoln's Beard



Prior to the election, Grace Bedell, an 11-year-old girl from Westfield, New York, wrote to Lincoln and suggested that he should grow a beard. All of his campaign images (previous page) showed him beardless but apparently he thought it was a good idea and grew the beard that is now associated with him. On his trip to Washington, the train stopped in Westfield and he greeted Grace and her family.

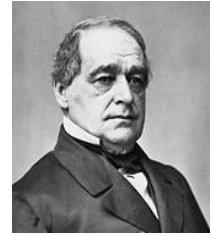
Inaugural Ceremony

Lincoln rode to the Capitol in a carriage with outgoing President James Buchanan, accompanied by a large military escort because of rumors of rebel plots to assassinate or kidnap Lincoln.



He then proceeded into the Senate chamber where Vice President Hannibal Hamlin was sworn into office. Everyone then went out to the east side of the Capitol where a crowd of 25,000 waited. The new Capitol dome was still under construction. Chief Justice Roger Taney, author of the infamous Dred Scott decision, administered the oath of office to Lincoln.

Vice President Hamlin



Hannibal Hamlin of Maine had a long record of public service before becoming Vice President in 1861. He was a Maine legislator, Governor of Maine, and served in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. Throughout his career, he was strongly against slavery. Originally a Democrat, he switched to the Republican Party in the 1850s over the slavery issue. During the Civil War, Hamlin was an early proponent of emancipation and creation of the U.S. Colored Troops. In the 1864 election, he would be replaced on the ticket by Democratic Tennessee U.S. Senator Andrew Johnson in an effort to draw more votes.

Inaugural Address

Lincoln addressed the issue of the legality of secession and tried to calm the fears of the nation his inaugural speech:

Apprehension seems to exist among the people of the Southern States that by the accession of a Republican Administration their property and their peace and personal security are to be endangered. There has never been any reasonable cause for such apprehension. Indeed, the most ample evidence to the contrary has all the while existed and been open to their inspection. It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I do but quote from one of those speeches when I declare that I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.

That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depend; and we denounce the lawless invasion by armed force of the soil of any State or Territory, no matter what pretext, as among the gravest of crimes.

I hold that in contemplation of universal law and of the Constitution the Union of these States is perpetual. Perpetuity is implied, if not expressed, in the fundamental law of all national governments. It is safe to assert that no government proper ever had a provision in its organic law for its own termination. Continue to execute all the express provisions of our National Constitution, and the Union will endure forever, it being impossible to destroy it except by some action not provided for in the instrument itself.

In 1787, one of the declared objects for ordaining and establishing the Constitution was "to form a more perfect Union."

But if destruction of the Union by one or by a part only of the States be lawfully possible, the Union is less perfect than before the Constitution, having lost the vital element of perpetuity.

Physically speaking, we can not separate. We cannot remove our respective sections from each other nor build an impassable wall between them. A husband and wife may be divorced and go out of the presence and beyond the reach of each other, but the different parts of our country cannot do this. They cannot but remain face to face, and intercourse, either amicable or hostile, must continue between them. Is it possible, then, to make that intercourse more advantageous or more satisfactory after separation than before? Can aliens make treaties easier than friends can make laws? Can treaties be more faithfully enforced between aliens than laws can among friends? Suppose you go to war, you can not fight always; and when, after much loss on both sides and no gain on either, you cease fighting, the identical old questions, as to terms of intercourse, are again upon you.

Lincoln concluded his address with his hope for the future:

I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every

living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

Inaugural Ball

In keeping with tradition, a grand ball was held to celebrate the inauguration and lend a sense of normality during an impending crisis. The ball was held in a temporary building constructed for the occasion. It was located in what is now Judiciary Square, just north of Pennsylvania Avenue.



During the ball an unusual example of political civility occurred. Senator Stephen Douglas, one of Lincoln's opponents in the 1860 election, danced a quadrille with First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln. The "temporary" building was used by the Union Army as a barracks during the Civil War and not taken down until 1866.

In spite of Lincoln's hope that the "better angels of our nature" would prevail, Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion. Four more states - Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee - quickly seceded and joined the Confederacy. The nation was locked in a Civil War.

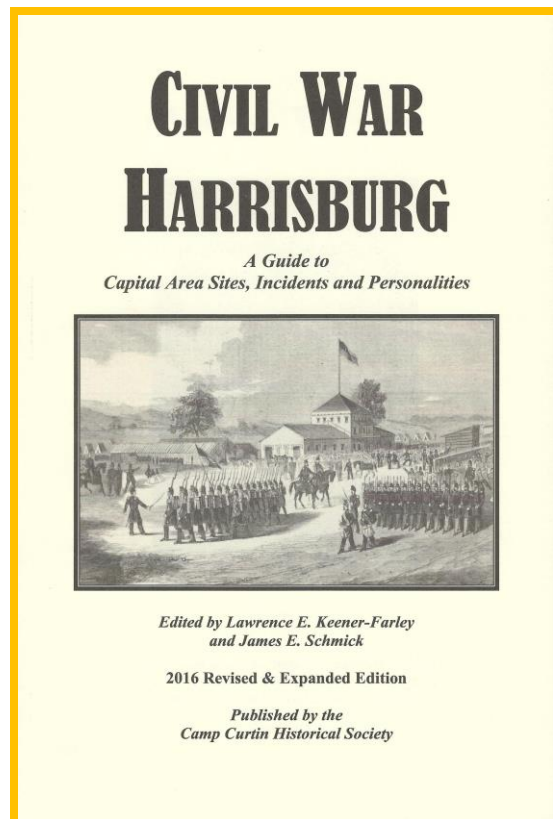
For more information on the causes of the Civil War and the events of 1861, visit our website at www.campcurtin.org & click on Newsletters for 2010, No.1, The Gathering Storm and 2010, No. 4, 1860 - Election and Secession.

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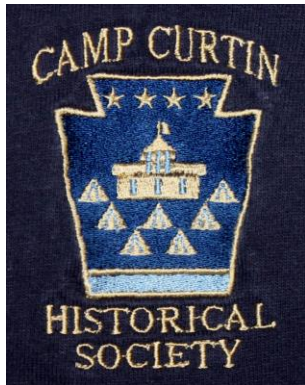
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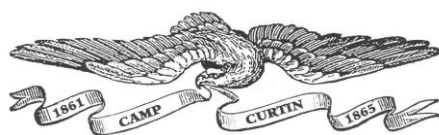


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Camp Curtin Historical Society
presents

What Mean these Stones?
A Walking Tour of Gettysburg's Cemetery Ridge
by
Dr. Richard Goedkoop



1:30PM, Sunday, June 6

at the Gettysburg National Military Park

Meet at the National Cemetery Parking Lot off the Taneytown Road

Preregistration required - telephone 717-732-5115 (7PM-9PM) or email genjenkins@aol.com.

CCHS Members Free

Non-Members \$5.00 each

MASKS ARE REQUIRED

Dr. Richard Goedkoop is a retired faculty member from La Salle University, where he taught for 32 years. He became a Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide in 2000 and has given over 5,800 tours for various types of groups, families and individuals.

During this tour, we will visit 28 monuments including the New Jersey Brigade, Father Corby, 1st Minnesota Infantry, 84th Pennsylvania Infantry, U.S. Regulars Monument, Gen. John Gibbon Statue, 20th Massachusetts Infantry, Cushing's Battery, Albert Woolson GAR Monument and the Gen. Alexander Hays Statue. Dr. Goedkoop will fill in the details and "backstories" of these "last sentinels" of the battle.

If the tour 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.