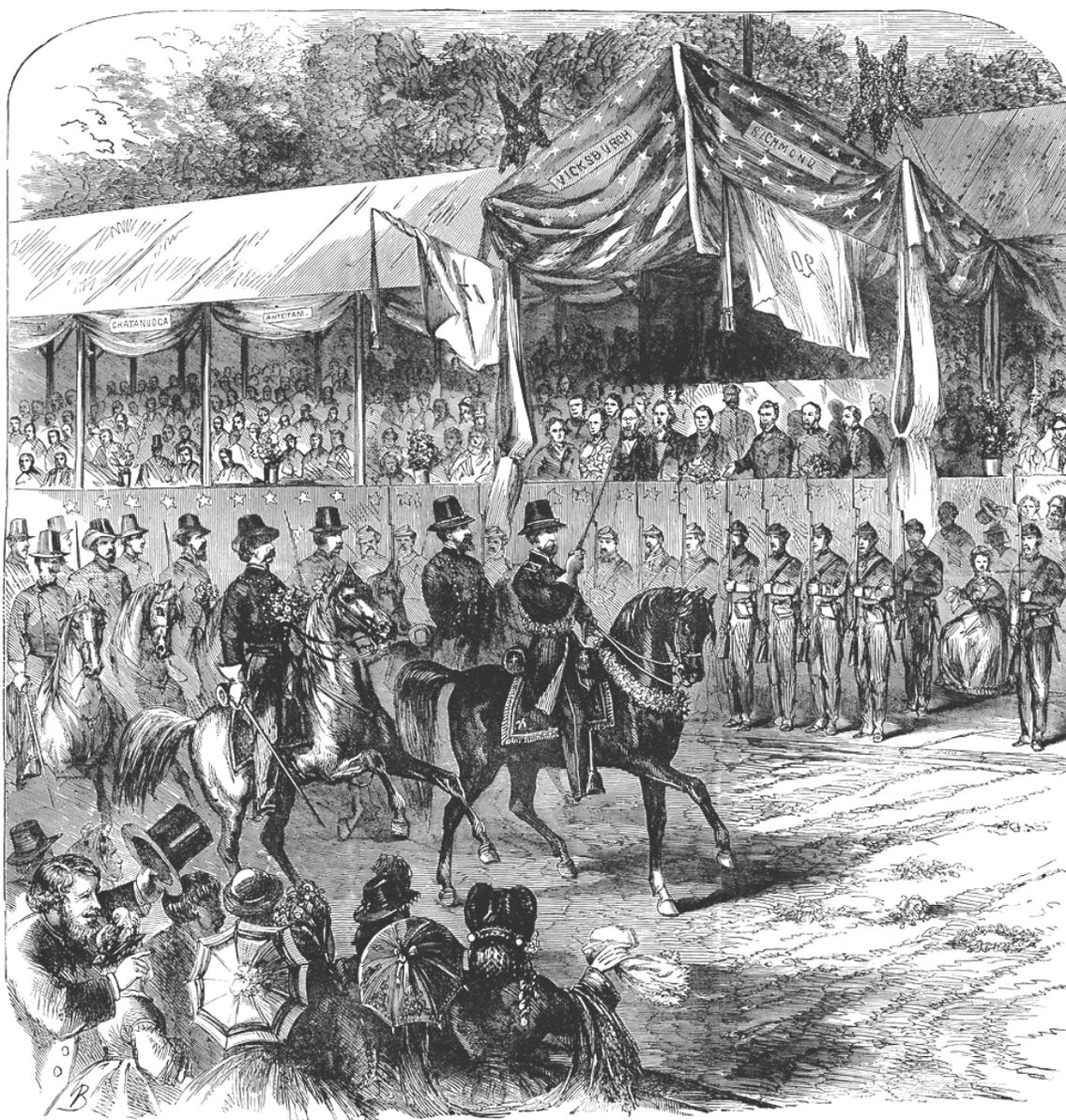


# The Bugle



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

Spring 2015  
Volume 25, Number 1



*Final Victory*

*"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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## Cemetery Tour Changed to April

Our Annual Harrisburg Cemetery Tour has been changed from September to April 25. Our tours will be held in conjunction with the Penn State Extension Dauphin County Master Gardeners Harrisburg Cemetery Spring Tree Walk. The Master Gardeners developed a self-guided walking tour highlighting the Harrisburg Cemetery's diverse trees. The cemetery is an excellent reflection of the Antebellum-era park-like setting that was popular at the time it was established. The tree walk is free of charge and the Master Gardeners will be available to answer questions and to assist visitors. See back cover for more information.

## Dues are Due

Please check your envelope. If it has "**Exp Dec 2014**" your membership has expired. We hope that all of you will renew your dues and join us in helping to spread the word about Civil War preservation, commemoration, and education. Send your renewal to: CCHS, P.O. Box 5601, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Make your check payable to Camp Curtin Historical Society. Membership levels: General - \$100, Colonel - \$75, Captain - \$50, Sergeant - \$35, Corporal (Family) - \$25, Recruit - \$15. Remember, any donation above the basic recruit level of \$15.00 is tax deductible!

## License Plate Available

You can show your support for Gettysburg Preservation on your car! The license plate approved earlier this year is now available. The plate 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. For information and an application form, visit [http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/license\\_plates/special\\_fund.shtml](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/license_plates/special_fund.shtml).



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*Cover: Almost 150,000 Union soldiers paraded down Pennsylvania Avenue and passed a reviewing stand at the White House during the Grand Review in Washington, May 23-24, 1865.*

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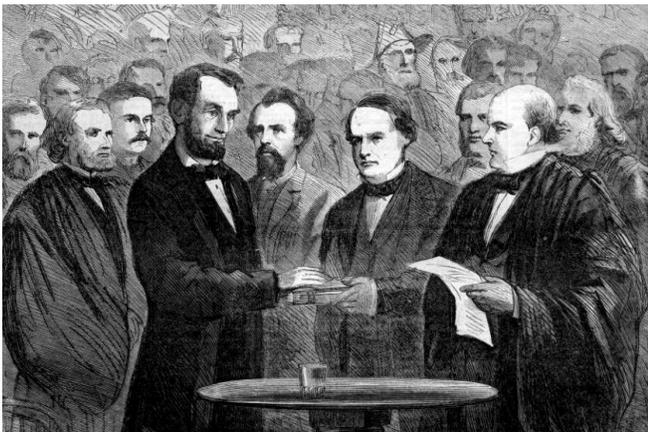
# Timeline to Final Victory

As 1865 opened, the Union was in position to press forward to ultimate victory. President Abraham Lincoln had won a contentious election with Gen. George McClellan the previous November. His reelection ensured that the war would continue and the twin goals of reunion and abolition would be pressed to a successful conclusion.

Militarily, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant was besieging Petersburg, Virginia, gateway to the Confederate capital of Richmond. While bogged down, he was holding Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in check. Maj. Gen. Phillip Sheridan had won victories in the Shenandoah Valley. Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman had captured Atlanta and marched to the sea and was about to move into the Carolinas. The Union Navy's blockade of the coast had effectively cut off all foreign trade. The end was in sight and a push on all fronts would lead to ultimate victory.

## March 4, 1865

Lincoln takes the oath of office for the second time and gives a remarkably conciliatory inaugural speech: *With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.*



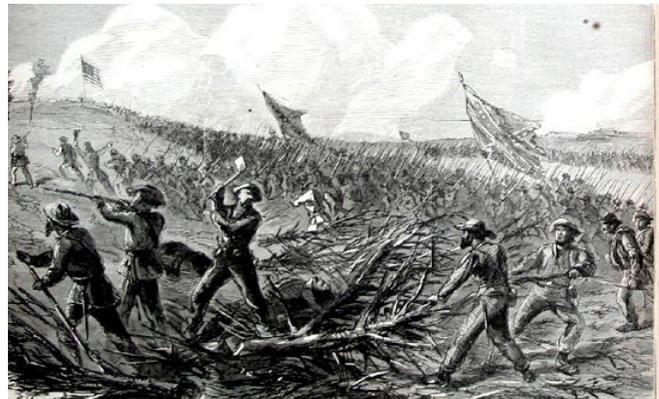
## March 13, 1865

In a desperate effort to bolster the numbers of the rapidly depleting Confederate Army, President Jefferson Davis signed a law that allowed the arming of slaves who will fight for the Confederacy. Perhaps a few thousand served, but their use in battle was minimal and had no impact on the outcome of the war.

## March 19–21, 1865

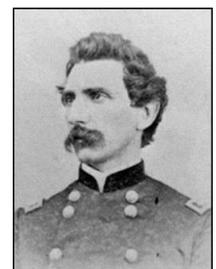
A series of battles near Bentonville, North Carolina, between Sherman's Army and Confederates under Gen. Joseph Johnston were the last major actions in the attempt to stop Sherman's advance into the Southern heartland.

## March 25, 1865



Gen. Lee launched his last major offensive action of the war. Confederates, led by Maj. Gen. John Gordon, attacked Fort Stedman outside Petersburg in the hope of cutting off Grant's supply line to City Point. Initially, the surprise attack was successful, and the fort was captured (above).

The Union organized a counter attack, led by Pennsylvania's Maj. Gen. John F. Hartranft (right), and completely routed the Confederates from the fort and drove them back into the defenses of Petersburg. Union casualties amounted to about 1,100 while the Confederate losses were about 4,000, mostly captured, losses Lee could ill afford.



### March 26, 1865

After the failure of the Fort Stedman attack, Lee met with President Jefferson Davis and informed him that the position of the Army of Northern Virginia was untenable and that Petersburg and Richmond would have to be evacuated.

### March 27–28, 1865

Lincoln, Grant, Sherman (who had come up from North Carolina) and Admiral David Porter met at City Point, Virginia. Lincoln laid out his plan for an easy reunification of the rebellious Southern states. Grant and Sherman relied on these talks when they accepted the surrender of Confederate troops.

### March 29-31, 1865

Union troops under Gen. Sheridan maneuvered south of Petersburg in an effort to flank the Confederate right, cut off the railroad supplying Richmond, and make the defense of Petersburg untenable. Stubborn Confederate resistance and rain slowed the attack, and the Southern line held.

### April 1, 1865

Gen. Sheridan launched an attack on Confederates under the command of Maj. Gen. George Pickett at Five Forks. Outnumbered five to one, the Confederates could not hold the important cross roads and lost about half of their 10,000 troops, mostly to capture.

### April 2, 1865

Gen. Lee informed President Davis that Richmond must be evacuated. Davis and members of the government boarded a train headed for Danville, Virginia. Confederates set warehouses and factories ablaze to keep war assets out of the enemies' hands. Unfortunately, the fire spread and many buildings were unintentionally consumed by flames (below).



Confederate Capitol overlooking the “burned district”

### April 3, 1865

Union troops occupied Richmond. Freed slaves danced in the streets while many whites hid in their homes and others took to looting stores and abandoned houses.

### April 4, 1865

President Lincoln and his son Tad visited Richmond and were cheered by freed slaves and Union soldiers. He stopped by the Confederate White House and sat at Davis's desk. They also visited the Capitol Building and Libby Prison.



Meanwhile in Danville, President Davis issued a proclamation trying to put the best “public relations spin” he could on the situation: *Relieved from the necessity of guarding cities and particular points, important but not vital to our defense, with an army free to move from point to point and strike in detail the detachments and garrisons of the enemy, operating on the interior of our own country, where supplies are more accessible, and where the foe will be far removed from his own base and cut off from all succor in case of reverse, nothing is now needed to render our triumph certain but the exhibition of our own unquenchable resolve. Let us but will it, and we are free; and who, in the light of the past, dare doubt your purpose in the future?*

Gen. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia retreated west toward Amelia Court House where he hoped to obtain supplies, but Sheridan's cavalry cut the railroad lines. He continued to move west in hope of linking up with Gen. Johnston's Army. Union troops continually harassed the Confederates as they marched.

### **April 5, 1865**

Lincoln met with Confederate Assistant Secretary of War John Campbell in Richmond. Lincoln informed Campbell that the abolition of slavery in the Southern States would be required for peace and reunification.

### **April 6, 1865**

The Battle of Sayler's Creek (also known as Sailor's Creek) was the last battle between the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia. The Union Army soundly defeated the Confederates and captured over 7,000 men, including six generals. Seeing retreating troops, Gen. Lee exclaimed, "*My God, has the army dissolved?*"



**Surrender of Confederates at Sayler's Creek**

### **April 7, 1865**

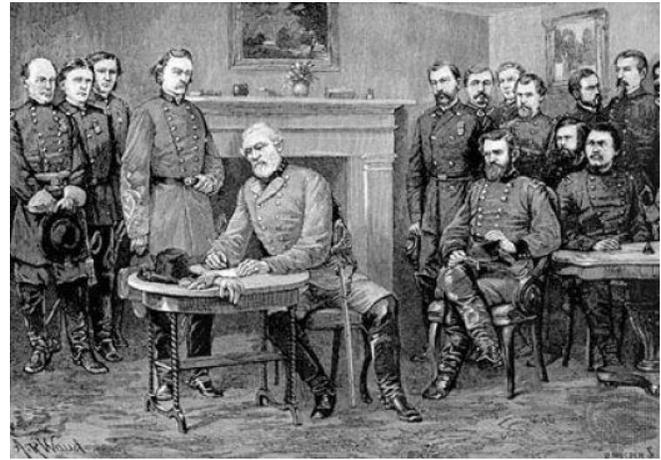
Gen. Grant sent a messages through the lines urging Gen. Lee to surrender "*to prevent any further effusion of blood.*" Lee responded by asking what terms would be offered, perhaps remembering Grant's "*no terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender*" offer at Fort Donelson in 1862.

### **April 8, 1865**

Gen. Grant responded to Gen. Lee that his men would be paroled and not allowed to return to service until properly exchanged. Knowing this would mean the ultimate demise of the Army of Northern Virginia, Lee made plans to try to break thorough the Union lines and link up with Gen. Johnston in North Carolina.

### **April 9, 1865**

Lee launched a morning attack on Union troops blocking his path but was repulsed and more Union troops in his rear advanced, effectively surrounding the Confederates. Lee realized the situation and requested a meeting with Grant.



In the afternoon, Grant and Lee meet at the McLean House in the small town of Appomattox Court House and agreed on terms of the surrender. The Confederate soldiers were paroled rather than imprisoned, officers kept their sidearms, and any man owning a horse or mule could take it home to work his farm. The Union Army also provided rations for the hungry Confederates.

### **April 10, 1865**

Learning of Gen. Lee's surrender, President Jefferson Davis and his cabinet abandoned Danville, seeking refuge in North Carolina. For the next month, he moved constantly, eluding capture. Various plans were suggested for the future of the Confederate government, including moving to a base west of the Mississippi River, continuing the fight for independence through a guerrilla war, or escaping to a foreign country.

### **April 11, 1865**

President Lincoln gave a speech suggesting some African-Americans should be given the vote. John Wilkes Booth, the well-known actor, was in the audience and declared, "*That is the last speech he will ever give.*" Earlier, Booth had hatched a plan to kidnap Lincoln and exchange him for Confederate prisoners. Now, Booth's thoughts turned to assassination.

### **April 12, 1865**

The Army of Northern Virginia formally surrendered to the Union Army of the Potomac. Each Confederate unit marched up, stacked their arms, and furled their flags. Although other troops were still in the field, the loss of this army was a major blow to the Confederacy.

**April 13, 1865**

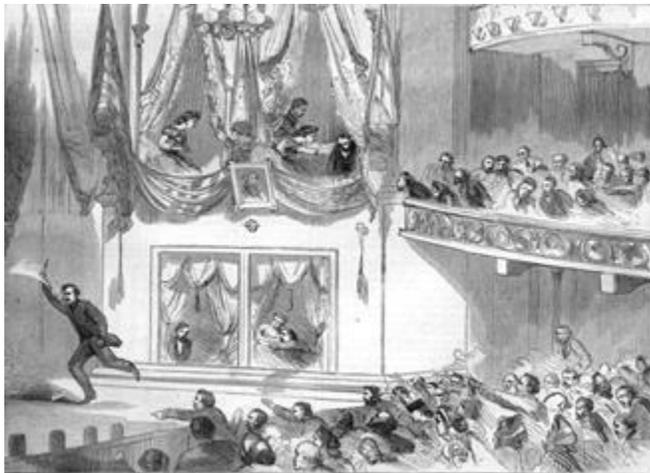
Gen. Sherman’s Army captured Raleigh, capital of North Carolina, after being evacuated by Gen. Johnston’s Confederates.

**April 14, 1865**

Gen. Johnston sent a message to Gen. Sherman requesting a meeting to discuss peace terms.

Maj. Gen. Robert Anderson returned to Fort Sumter, which he had surrendered in 1861, for a ceremony raising the United States Flag over the reoccupied fort.

With final victory in sight, Lincoln sought a diversion from the war and attended the play *Our American Cousin* at Ford’s Theater. During the performance, John Wilkes Booth shot the President and escaped into the night. Lincoln was taken to the Petersen House across the street from the theater.



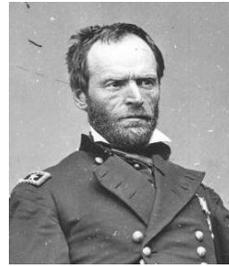
Also during the evening, Secretary of State William Seward was attacked in his home and stabbed by Lewis Payne (also known as Powell) but survived. George Atzerodt, assigned to kill Vice President Andrew Johnson, lost his nerve and failed to act.

Secretary of War Edwin Stanton sprang into action, declaring martial law and organizing a manhunt for the conspirators.

**April 15, 1865**

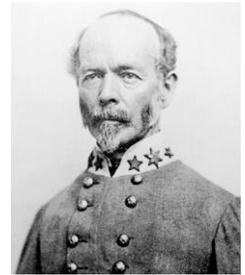
President Abraham Lincoln died at 7:22AM in the Petersen House. Andrew Johnson was sworn in as president a few hours later. Booth was on the run with fellow conspirator David Herold.

**April 17-18, 1865**



Gen. Sherman (left) met with Gen Johnston (below), and they discussed not only the surrender of Johnston’s troops but also a broader peace agreement that included a general amnesty for all Confederates and federal

government recognition of state governments as soon as state officials took an oath of allegiance to the United States. Sherman thought he was following Lincoln’s wishes, based on the discussions at City Point in March. The terms were rejected by President Johnson and the cabinet.

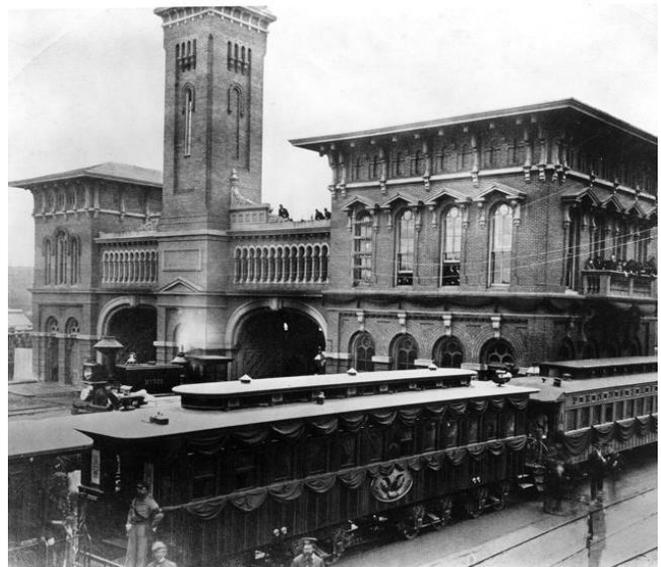


**April 19, 1865**

Lincoln’s funeral was held at the White House. The casket was then moved to the Capitol Rotunda for public viewing. His body was placed on a special train to return it Springfield via the same route Lincoln took in 1861 to his inauguration.

**April 21-22, 1865**

The Lincoln funeral train stopped in Harrisburg on the afternoon of April 21. The casket was taken to the Capitol, and thousands passed by to see the murdered president. After more viewing the next morning, the train left for Philadelphia.



Lincoln funeral car at Harrisburg Railroad Station

**April 22, 1865**

Meanwhile, Booth and Herold, who were hiding in Maryland, crossed the Potomac River into Virginia.

**April 24, 1865**

Gen. Grant arrived in Raleigh and informed Gen. Sherman that his peace terms have been rejected. Gen. Johnston was informed the truce would end in 48 hours.

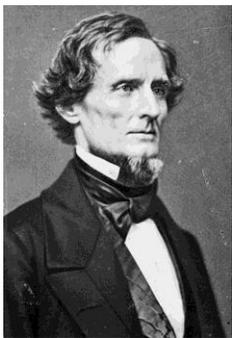
**April 26, 1865**

Gen. Johnston agreed to surrender terms much the same as those offered to Gen. Lee at Appomattox. Thus, the second major army of the Confederacy was taken out of action.

Union troops surrounded Booth and Herold at the Garrett Farm. Herold surrendered, but Booth refused and was shot. Sergeant Boston Corbett claimed to have fired the shot that killed Booth, but there is a controversy about that claim.

**May 4, 1865**

Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor surrendered to Maj. Gen. Edward Canby in Alabama. This was the last major Confederate force east of the Mississippi River.

**May 10, 1865**

President Jefferson Davis was captured by Union Cavalry near Irwin, Georgia. It was reported that Davis put his wife's overcoat or shawl over his shoulders while fleeing. This led to the legend that he attempted to flee in women's clothing, inspiring caricatures of "Jeff in Petticoats." He was imprisoned in Fortress Monroe on May 22.

**May 11-12, 1865**

A skirmish between Union and Confederate forces at Palmito Ranch was fought on the banks of the Rio Grande, east of Brownville, Texas. It involved White, Black, Hispanic, and Native Americans. It was a Confederate victory that amounted to about four killed and 12 wounded. It is considered the last battle of the Civil War.

**May 12, 1865**

President Johnson appointed Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard to be head of the new Freedmen's Bureau, established to help the freed slaves with finding lost family members, creating employment opportunities, establish schools, and assist in maintaining rights gained by the abolition of slavery.

**May 23-24, 1865**

For two days, the North celebrated the Union victory with a Grand Review in Washington, D.C. The troops marched down Pennsylvania Avenue and passed a reviewing stand at the White House. The United States Colored Troops were not allowed to march in the parade.

**June 2, 1865**

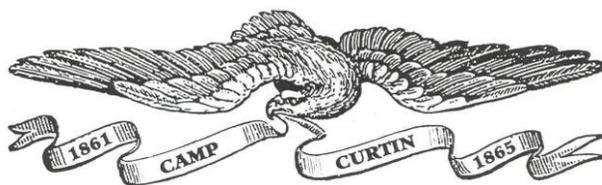
Confederate Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith approved the surrender of the remaining Confederate forces west of the Mississippi River.

**June 30, 1865**

After a seven week trial by a military court, all of the Lincoln assassination conspirators were found guilty. Mary Surratt, Lewis Powell, David Herold, and George Atzerodt were sentenced to death by hanging, and others were given prison terms.

**July 7, 1865**

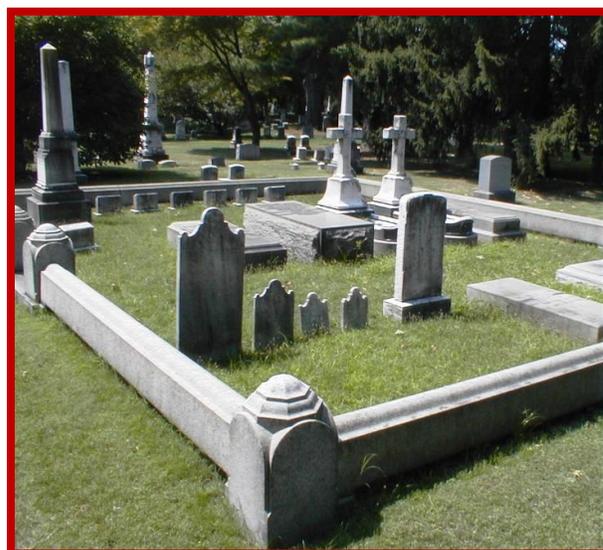
The four conspirators were executed at the Old Penitentiary Building at the Washington Arsenal (now Fort McNair).



*History comes alive at the Camp Curtin Historical Society's*

## **Harrisburg Cemetery Tours** **New Date - Saturday, April 25th**

**Rain date - Sunday, April 26th**



All tours will leave from the Caretaker's House  
1:00PM - Civil War History led by James Schmick  
1:30PM - Underground Railroad led by George Nagle  
2:00PM - Harrisburg History led by Bruce Horner  
*Each tour is approximately two hours in length*

Visit the graves and hear the stories of numerous personalities who influenced local, state and national events. 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 located at the eastern end of the State Street Bridge.

***The Penn State Extension Dauphin County Master Gardeners  
will also conduct their free Spring Tree Walk.***

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