

The Bugle



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

Winter 2021
Volume 31, Number 4



Camp Curtin Units at Gettysburg

"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 will hold its annual meeting at 2:00PM on Sunday, February 27, 2022, at the National Civil War Museum, One Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg, Pa. Officers will present reports on the Society's activities and finances. Results of the election of officers and directors will be announced. Our speaker, Codie Eash, will present a program on the Lutheran Seminary in the Battle of Gettysburg (see back cover).

Dues Reminder

In November we mailed out 2022 dues notices. If you have not already "reenlisted" we hope you will and help us continue our mission of preservation and education. You can also find the enlistment form on our website at www.campcurtin.org/enlistment-form.

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 – Brig. Gen. Samuel Crawford leading the charge of the Pennsylvania Reserves on July 2, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg. (from Harper's Weekly, August 8, 1863).

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

*Post Office Box 5601
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Telephone: 717-732-5330*

*Home Page:
www.campcurtin.org*

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*Camp Curtin Historical Society
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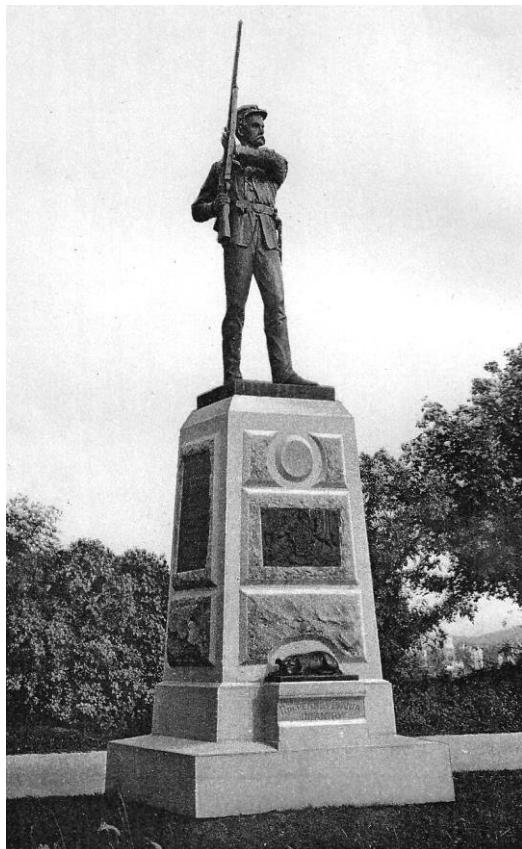
Merry Christmas to all from CCHS



Christmas trees had long been popular among the German community in America, but it was pictures of Queen Victoria and her family with a decorated tree that really helped to bring the tradition into the American home. In the nineteenth century, trees were usually placed on tables and decorations were made at home out of wood and paper. Often small toys and candy were hung from the tree as gifts for children. Real and artificial fruit were also popular ornaments. Candles provided sparkling light but usually they were only lit for a short period of time and always under adult supervision because of the danger of fire. During the Civil War, decorations took on a somewhat military flavor with miniature flags, bugles, swords and cannons.

Camp Curtin Units at Gettysburg

Camp Curtin was the main Pennsylvania camp for organizing, training and mustering troops into federal service. Many of these units were assigned to the Army of the Potomac, and 69 infantry regiments, 10 cavalry regiments at 5 artillery batteries from Pennsylvania fought in the Battle of Gettysburg. All of these units are memorialized with monuments on the battlefield. In this article, we present a few of these units from Camp Curtin with a photograph of its monument and a brief history of the unit.



The **11th Pennsylvania Infantry** is unique among the Pennsylvania regiments. It was originally one of the ninety day regiments that answered Lincoln's first call for volunteers to put down the rebellion. After their initial enlistment expired, the men reenlisted as a three year regiment and were allowed to keep their original regimental number. It was the only regiment that kept its original number. During its service, the 11th fought in most of the major battles in the east, including Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Petersburg, and Appomattox. Their monument at Gettysburg depicts a soldier raising his rifle-musket to fire a shot. The front of the

monument has the full moon insignia of the First Army Corps and the Pennsylvania coat of arms. Also on the monument is a bronze likeness of Sallie the dog, the regiment's mascot that accompanied them into battle. Unfortunately, she was killed in battle in 1865. After the war the veterans insisted she be included on the monument. The monument is located on Doubleday Avenue (near the observation tower), where the regiment fought on the first day of the battle before withdrawing to Cemetery Hill.

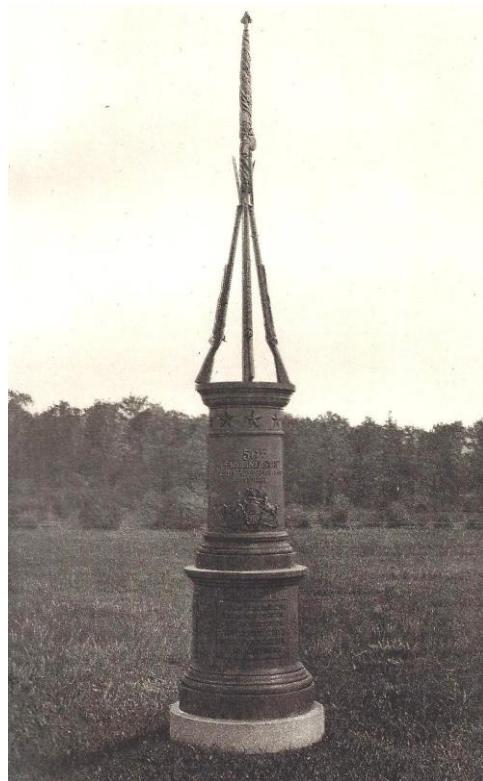


The **42nd Pennsylvania Infantry** was the 13th Regiment of Pennsylvania Reserves and was also known as the Bucktails because of the deer tails they wore on their caps as an indication of their marksmanship. Governor Curtin created the

Pennsylvania Reserve Corps as a “home guard” that would protect the state. When the Union was defeated at the First Battle of Bull Run, Curtin released the Reserves for federal service and they were assigned to a variety of units before joining the Army of the Potomac. At Gettysburg, the regiment was part of the charge led by Gen. Crawford (see cover). The granite soldier on the monument wears a bucktail on his cap. The monument is located on Ayres Avenue, south of the Wheatfield.



The **53rd Pennsylvania Infantry** had been from thirteen Pennsylvania counties and was organized at Camp Curtin in the fall of 1861. It was assigned to the First Division of the Second Corps of the Army of the Potomac. At Gettysburg on July 2, the regiment's brigade charged through the Wheatfield, forcing the Confederates to retreat. Rather unusual, the bronze statue on the monument portrays a soldier in an overcoat, rather unlikely attire in July heat. The monument is on Brooke Avenue, south of the Peach Orchard in the Rose farm woods.



The **56th Pennsylvania Infantry** was part of the First Corps and one of the first infantry units to arrive at Gettysburg on July 1 and suffered heavy losses in the opening engagement. Overwhelmed by Confederates, the Union troops retreated back through the town of Gettysburg. The 56th was posted to Culp's Hill for the remainder of the battle. The bronze sculpture has three stacked rifle-muskets supporting a furled flag, symbolizing the end of the day and that the regiment's work is done. The monument is located on Oak Ridge along Reynolds Avenue just past the railroad cut.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania appropriated \$1,500 for every Pennsylvania regiment to erect a monument after the Civil War. Some regiments raised additional money and designed more elaborate monuments. Most of the monuments were erected in the late 1880s and dedicated in special ceremonies that were commemorated in the book Pennsylvania at Gettysburg, published in 1904. The photographs in this article were copied from that book so the tree lines have changed in the last century.

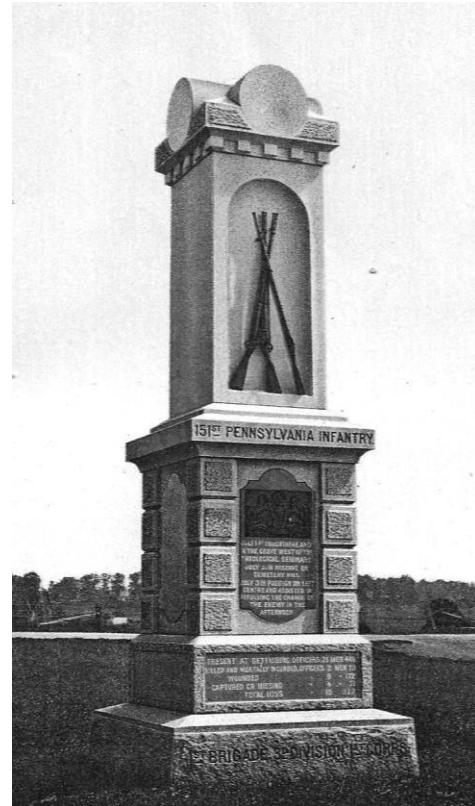


The **84th Pennsylvania Infantry** fought in most of the major battles of the Civil War as part of the Army of the Potomac, but it saw no action at Gettysburg. The unit was assigned to guard the army's supply wagons southeast of Gettysburg. Since this was considered vital work, the 84th was allowed to place a monument on the battlefield. The geometric shape on the top of the monument represents the diamond insignia of the Third Corps. The monument is located beside the Pennsylvania Memorial along Pleasonton Avenue.



The **147th Pennsylvania Infantry** was on the far left flank of the Union Army at Little Round Top on the evening of July 1. Early the next day, the

regiment was moved to Culp's Hill. On July 3, Lieutenant Colonel Ario Pardee led the regiment in a charge across an open field to drive the Confederates back down the hill. Since then, the field has been known as Pardee Field. The monument, which displays the five pointed star insignia of the Twelfth Corps, is located along Geary Avenue on Culp's Hill.



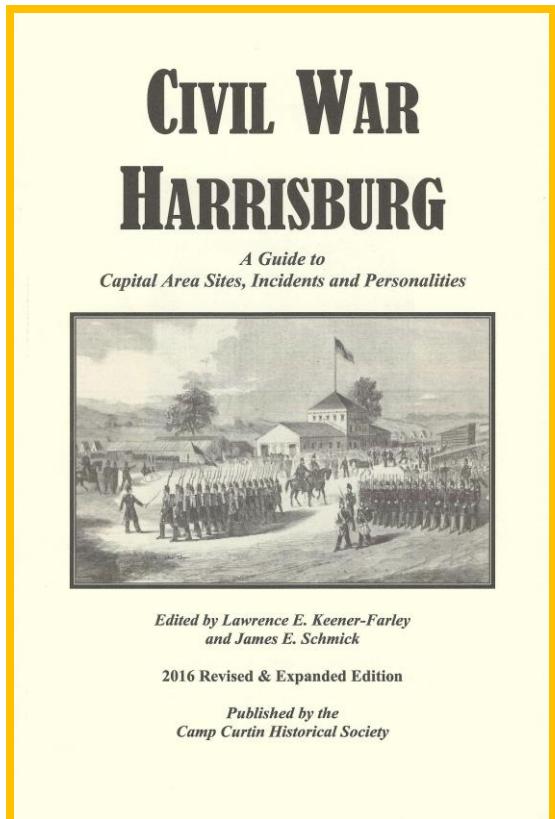
The **151st Pennsylvania Infantry** had over 100 schoolteachers on its muster rolls, and was often known as the School Teacher Regiment. On July 1, it was posted just south of the Chambersburg Pike and held as long as it could until the First Corps was overwhelmed by Confederates and forced to retreat. On July 2, they were in reserve on Cemetery Hill. On July 3, the regiment was to the left of the Second Corps and helped to repulse Pickett's Charge. During the battle, the regiment lost 367 out of 478 officers and men killed, wounded, and captured, a casualty rate of nearly seventy-five percent. The monument displays the full moon insignia of the First Corps and three bronze rifle-muskets. The monument is located near the intersection of Reynolds and Meredith Avenues.

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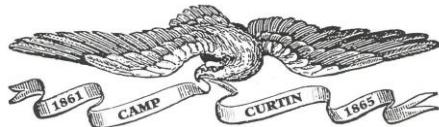


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The Camp Curtin Historical Society
presents
Codie Eash
speaking on
***The Lutheran Seminary
in the Battle of Gettysburg***



As the Battle of Gettysburg opened on July 1, 1863, the Civil War came to the Seminary's door, leaving in its wake hundreds of wounded soldiers, thousands of dollars of property damage, and countless stories of heroism and horror. This presentation will cover the use of the Seminary building, cupola, and campus by Union soldiers in Buford's cavalry, the Signal Corps, and First Corps infantry and artillery; the origins of one of Gettysburg's largest military hospitals; the occupation of the grounds by the Confederate high command; and the impact of the Civil War's bloodiest battle on the students, faculty, and civilians who lived and worked there.

Codie Eash is a graduate of Shippensburg University and serves as Director of Education and Museum Operations at Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center. He has given numerous presentations to historical organizations and written articles on the Civil War.

2:00PM, Sunday, February 27, 2022
at the National Civil War Museum
One Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg, Pa.

This presentation is free. Bring a friend.

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.