

The Bugle

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



Summer 2020
Volume 30, Number 2



History Along the Road

"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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Camp Curtin 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 Ladies Union Relief Association of Harrisburg is one of the civilian organizations that worked at Camp Curtin. The application fee is \$25.00. Accepted members will receive a membership medal, membership certificate, and a one year membership in the Society. Subsequent dues will be \$15.00 per year. For more information and an application form, visit our website at www.CampCurtin.org or email CampCurtin@verizon.net, or write CCHS, Post Office Box 5601, Harrisburg, PA 17110.



Cancelled May Program Available Online

We had to cancel our May 17 meeting because of the coronavirus. Fortunately, our speaker, John R. Heckman, recorded his presentation "Eating on the Go: The Issue of Rations on the Gettysburg Campaign" and you can now see it on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CampCurtinHistoricalSociety/>.

Harrisburg Civil War Days scheduled for June 12 to 14 are cancelled. Hopefully, this event with its living history programs, lectures, tours and displays will return next year.

COVER – The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission roadside marker at the site of Camp Curtin. Our lead article in this issue covers the PHMC Civil War markers in Cumberland and Dauphin counties.

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.

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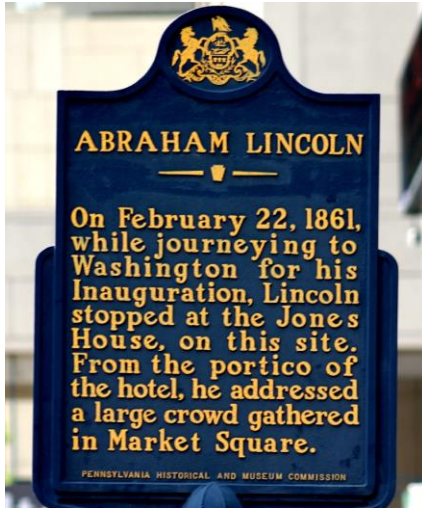
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History Along the Road

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has placed hundreds of roadside markers throughout the state. These blue markers with yellow lettering tell our state's history from the colonial era to recent times. Several in Dauphin and Cumberland counties relate to our local Civil War history.

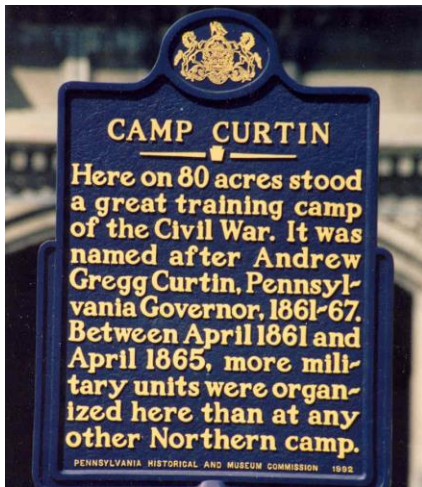
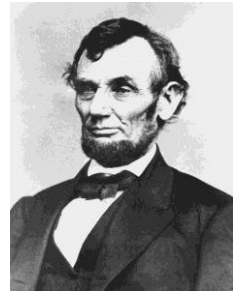


Abraham Lincoln

Dedicated April 9, 1953

Southeast Quadrant, Market Square, Harrisburg

Lincoln spoke to the legislature in the old brick capitol and then attended a dinner at the Jones House, hosted by Gov. Andrew Curtin and Sen. Simon Cameron. During dinner, he was informed of an assassination plot in Baltimore. Lincoln was secretly slipped out of Harrisburg, passed through Baltimore in the middle of the night, and arrived safely in Washington.

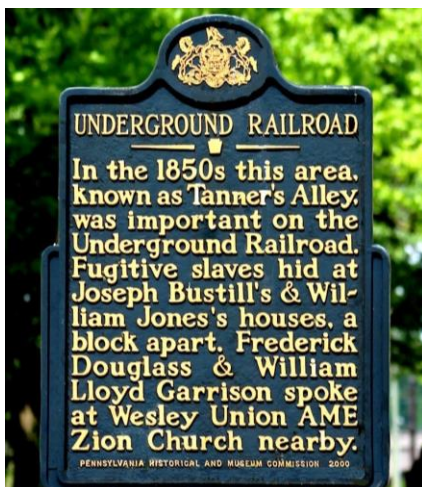
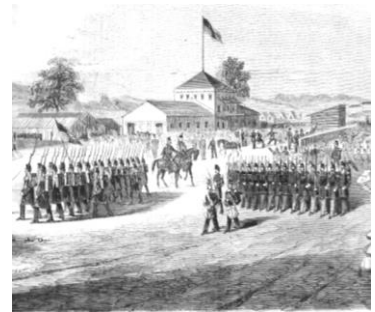


Camp Curtin

Dedicated April 18, 1992

East side of Sixth St. near Woodbine St., Harrisburg

Camp Curtin was established at the Dauphin County Agricultural Fairgrounds. Over 300,000 men passed through the camp, mostly from Pennsylvania, but troops from Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Wisconsin, and the Regular Army also used Camp Curtin.

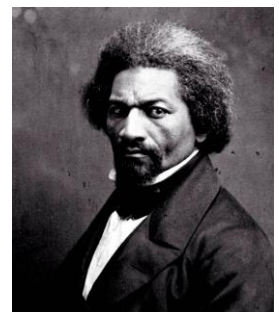


Underground Railroad

Dedicated April 29, 2000

North side of Walnut St. near Commonwealth Ave., Harrisburg

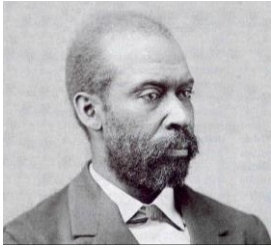
The Harrisburg Anti-Slavery Society was founded by 100 local residents in 1836. Various individuals, organizations, and churches in the area assisted escaping slaves, even before the system became known as the Underground Railroad. As noted on the marker, the famous abolitionist Frederick Douglass (right) spoke in Harrisburg.



T. Morris Chester

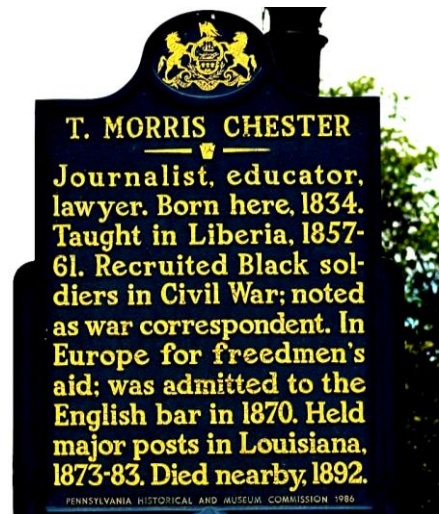
Dedicated December 3, 1986

North side of Market St. near Third St., Harrisburg



Prior to the Civil War, Thomas Morris Chester was involved in the "Back to Africa" movement that relocated freed slaves to Liberia, where he helped to set-up the school system. As a newspaper reporter attached to Grant's army, he was the first to break the story of the fall of

Richmond. Chester held several federal offices during reconstruction in Louisiana. He is buried in Lincoln Cemetery in Penbrook.

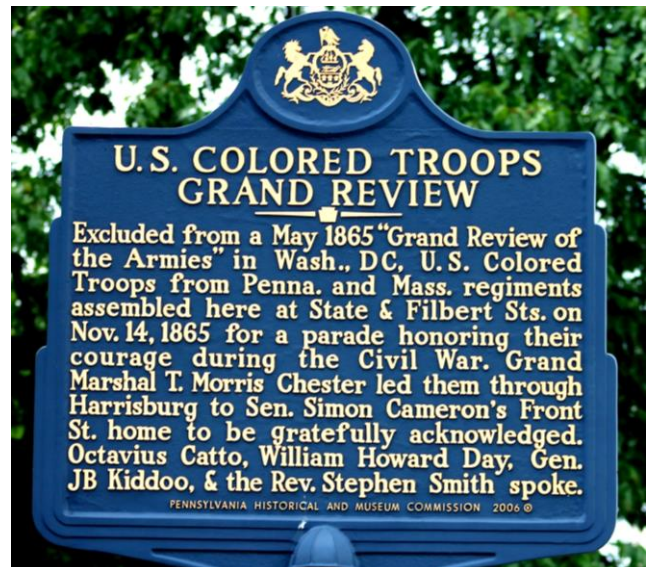


U.S. Colored Troops Grand Review

Dedicated May 6, 2006

Soldier's Grove, west side of Seventh St., across from western end of State St. Bridge, Harrisburg

Despite the fact that over 200,000 African-Americans, including eleven regiments from Pennsylvania, had served in the Union Army, they were not invited to join the Grand Review in Washington. As a small recognition of the service of the black troops, a parade was held in Harrisburg on November 14, 1865. Pennsylvania was the only state to hold such an event.



Fort Couch

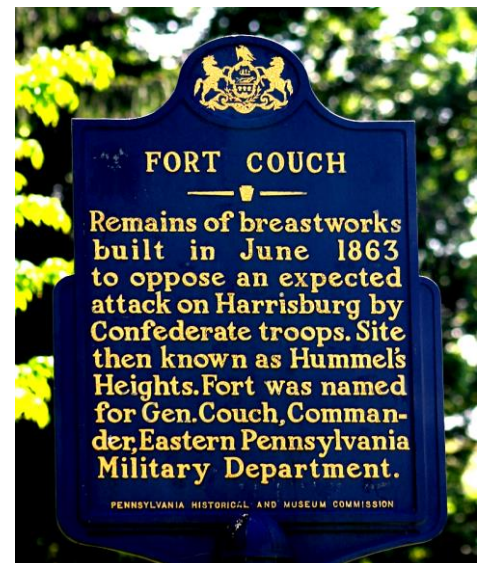
Dedicated October 13, 1953

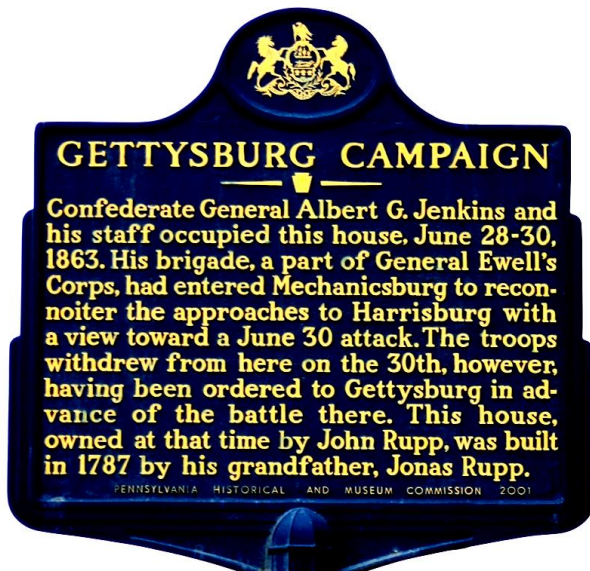
South side of Indiana Ave. near Eighth St., Lemoyne



Fort Couch, named for Maj. Gen. Darius Couch, the commander of the Department of the Susquehanna, is the only remaining earthworks built in June of 1863 to protect Harrisburg during the Confederate Invasion of Pennsylvania.

The Camp Curtin Historical Society erected a monument (left) at the site to further explain the fort's history





Gettysburg Campaign – Rupp House

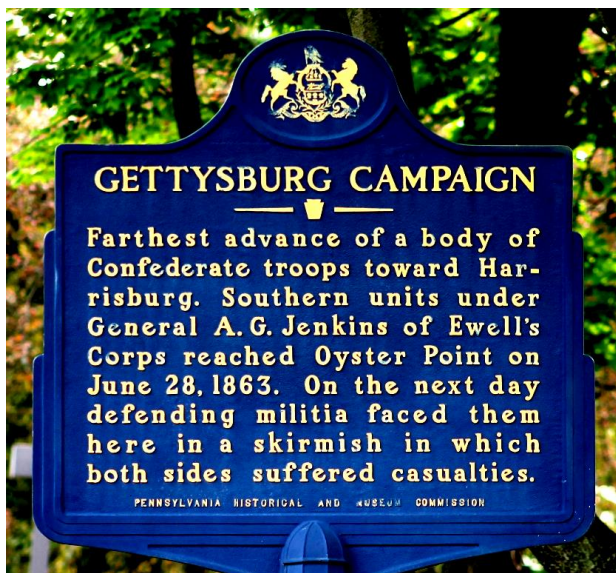
Dedicated April 25, 2001

5115 East Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg

Built in 1787 by Jonas Rupp, this stone house (right) was occupied by the grandson's family during the Civil War. The family fled to Lancaster County during the Confederate invasion in 1863. Brig.



Gen. Albert Jenkins used the house as his headquarters while he was in the area reconnoitering the defenses of Harrisburg and later fighting skirmishes at Oyster Point and Sporting Hill.

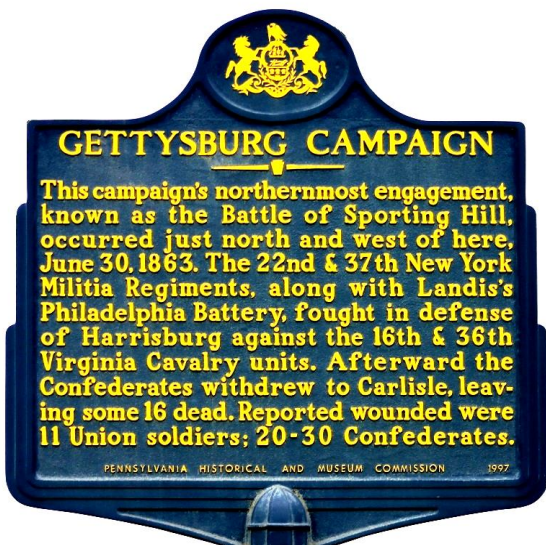


Gettysburg Campaign – Oyster Point

Dedicated June 28, 1963

3025 Market St., Camp Hill

On June 29, 1863, Jenkins' cavalry charged down the Trindle Road and Market Street to attack New York Militia deployed around the Oyster Point Tavern. The Union troops ultimately retreated to the hill on 21st Street. This attack would be the closest the Southerners would come to Harrisburg. The tavern building (right) was still standing when the PHMC marker was dedicated during the Civil War Centennial. Unfortunately, it was demolished several years later.



Gettysburg Campaign – Sporting Hill

Dedicated June 21, 1997

5002 Carlisle Pike, Hampden Township

After the skirmish at Oyster Point, Gen. Jenkins pulled his troops back to Sporting Hill. He sent word to Lt. Gen Richard Ewell in Carlisle that Harrisburg could be captured and awaited for Ewell to march his troops toward Harrisburg. Ewell, however, had received orders from Gen. Robert E. Lee to come to Gettysburg. Meanwhile, Union troops were sent out the Carlisle Pike to locate Jenkins, and the Battle of Sporting Hill ensued, the northernmost action of the Gettysburg Campaign.

Gettysburg Campaign – Carlisle

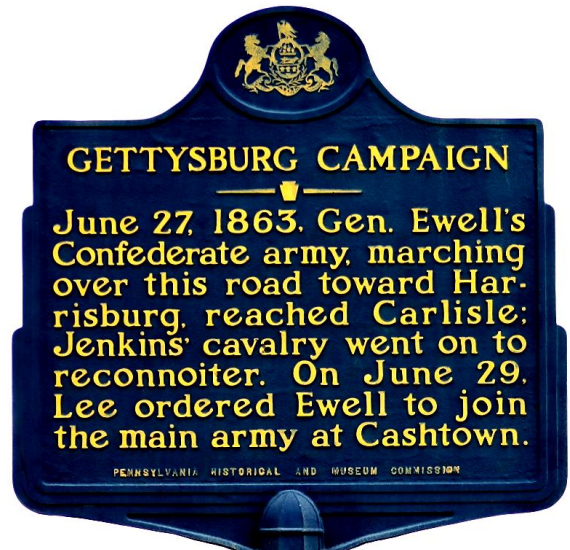
Dedicated July 29, 1947

East side of Walnut Bottom Rd., North of I-81



Ewell's Corps led the Confederate Army's invasion of Pennsylvania. After reaching Chambersburg, one division marched east toward the Susque-

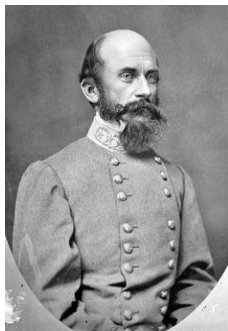
hanna River, and the other two went north to Carlisle. They occupied the town and even held a troop review at the Carlisle Barracks. Rather than moving on to Harrisburg, they were ordered south to Gettysburg as Lee consolidated his scattered forces.



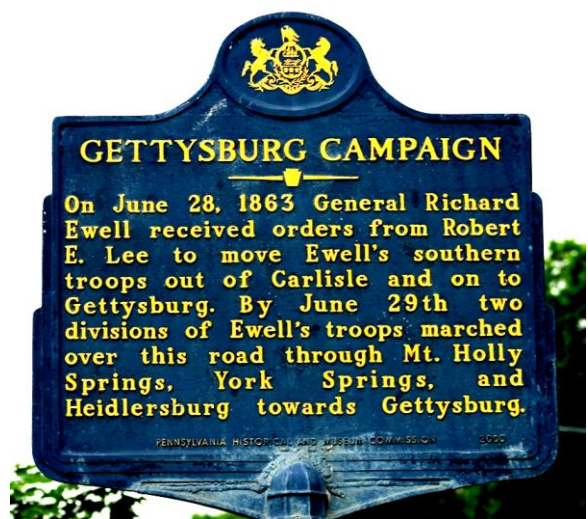
Gettysburg Campaign – Carlisle

Dedicated July 29, 1949

East side of Pa. Route 34, South of I-81



After occupying Carlisle, Lt. Gen. Richard Ewell (left) sent his cavalry east toward Harrisburg to reconnoiter the city's defenses. Before he could plan an attack and move his troops on Pennsylvania's capital, he received orders to march to Gettysburg.



Farthest North of Confederates

Dedicated October, 1929

3401 Spring Rd., Carlisle Springs

This bronze plaque is an older style of PHMC roadside marker. Plaque Text: The farthest north attained by any organized body of the Confederate Army of General Robert E. Lee was reached here at the farm of Joseph Miller on the morning of June 28, 1863. Hearing that Sterrett's Gap was occupied by Union troops these outposts returned to their command at Carlisle. From these hills the tide of Confederate invasion receded destined never to return.



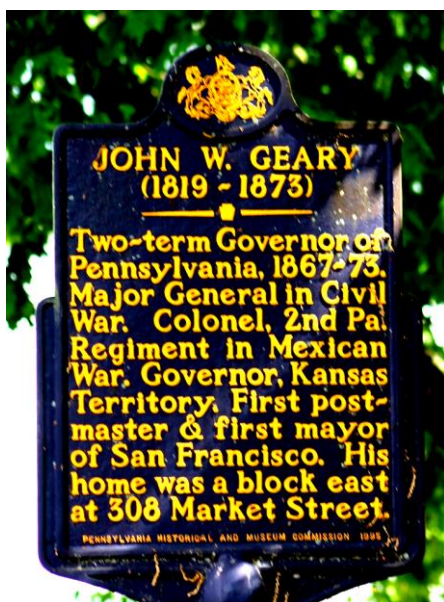
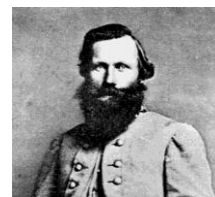


Gettysburg Campaign – J.E.B. Stuart

Dedicated July 29, 1947

East side of Pa. Route 74, South of I-81

When the Confederate Army marched north toward Pennsylvania, Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart (right) tried to ride his cavalry around the pursuing Union Army. He was unable to get back as Lee's troops moved north. Stuart was unsure of their movements and location and eventually went to Carlisle, but Ewell's troops had already left for Gettysburg. Stuart fought a small skirmish in Carlisle and eventually rejoined Lee in Gettysburg.

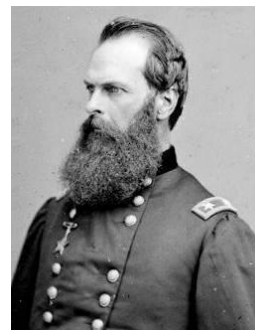


John W. Geary

Dedicated June 10, 1995

Third & Bridge Streets, New Cumberland

In 1861, Geary raised the 28th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. In 1862 he was promoted to brigadier general and commanded a brigade. Later he was promoted to major general and given command of a division in the 12th Army Corps. At Gettysburg, he led his division on Culp's Hill. After Gettysburg, he was sent to the western theater and commanded his division through the Atlanta Campaign, the March to the Sea, and the Carolina Campaign. After the war, Geary served as military governor of Savannah, Ga., before returning to Pennsylvania to serve as governor.



Marcus A. Reno

Dedicated September 9, 2001

Third & Reno Streets, New Cumberland

Reno was assigned to Harrisburg during the summer of 1863 while he recuperated from a wound. He served as mustering officer at Camp Curtin; regulations required that a regular Army officer muster all volunteers into and out of federal service so he was rather busy with paperwork. While in the area, he met and married Mary Ross from New Cumberland. Later, Reno commanded the 12th Pennsylvania Cavalry and was brevetted Brigadier General for meritorious services during the war. Reno Street in New Cumberland is named for him.

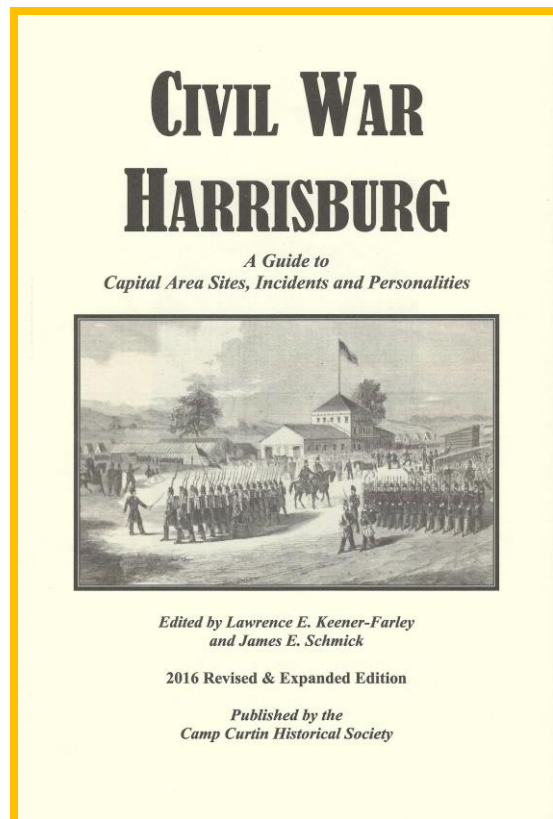


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