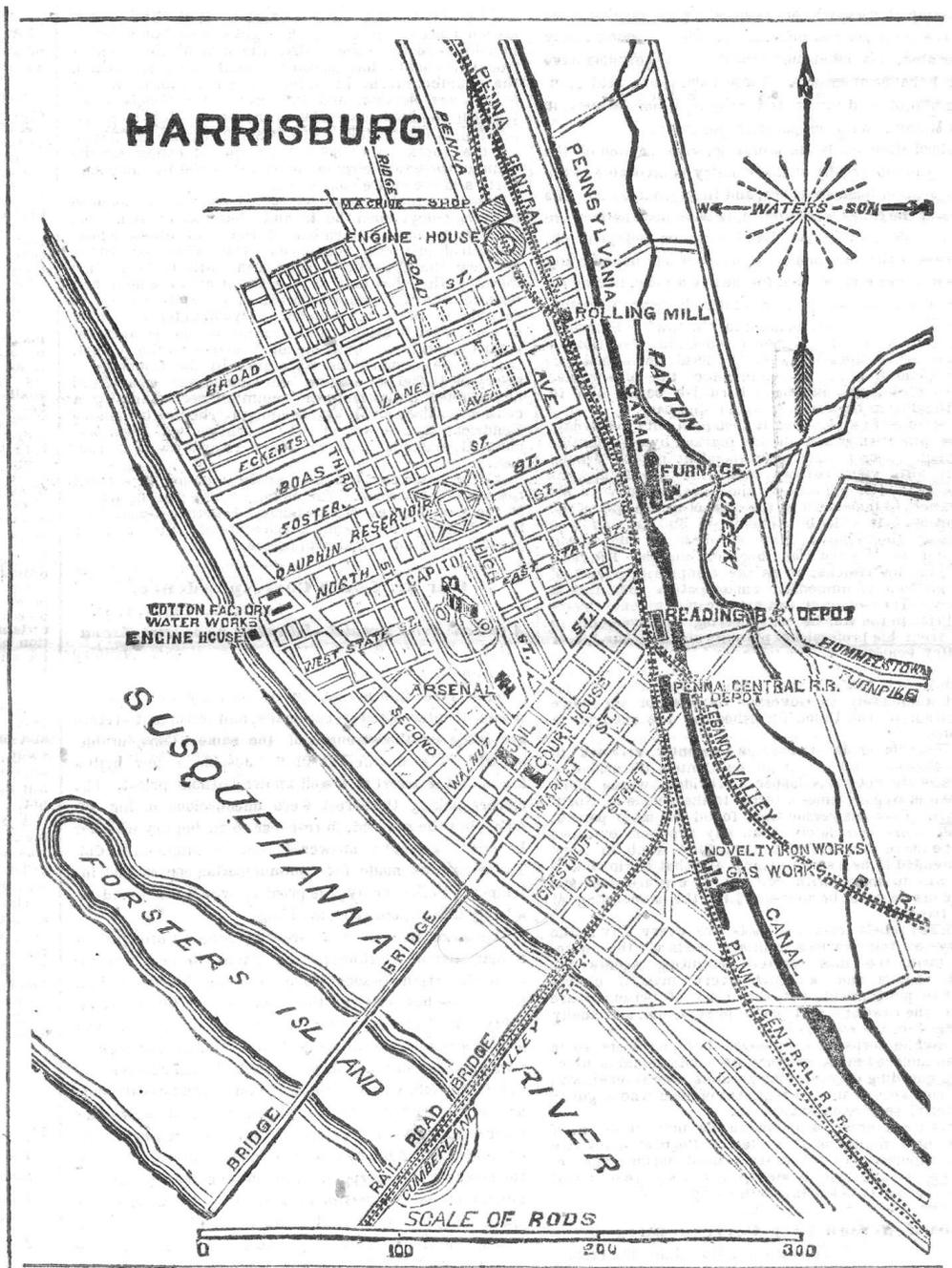


The Bugle



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

Spring 2008
Volume 18, Number 1



"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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Changing of the Guard

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the Society, Annette Keener-Farley, James Schmick, and Margaret Shuttlesworth have served the maximum number of years on the Board of Directors. We thank them for their outstanding service. Taking their places are Sharon Caba, Nancy Otstot, and Mary Wright, who were elected at the annual meeting in February.

New Fort Couch Magnet

For years the Society has sold a refrigerator magnet of the Camp Curtin historical marker. We have now added one of the Fort Couch marker. These magnets are \$1.50 each and may be purchased at Camp Curtin events.

Rifle Being Sold by Harrisburg CWRT

Dr. Dean Olewiler has donated a Whitney 1861 Navy Percussion Rifle to the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table. The rifle will be offered in a silent auction at HCWRT meetings on March 28, April 25, May 16 and June 13. Minimum bid is \$4,500. Proceeds from the sale will be used for historic preservation. For more information contact visit HCWRT website at www.HarrisburgCWRT.org or contact Sheldon Munn at 717-770-0235 or email diamunns@aol.com.

Cover: This issue of The Bugle looks at the Harrisburg area prior to the Civil War. An article from Ballou's newspaper presents an interesting glimpse of Harrisburg in 1857. The map on the cover is from the June 30, 1863, issue of the New York Herald, probably copied from an atlas published a few years before. Note that only a few blocks had been laid out north of Broad Street. The location of the four illustrations in the article can be seen on the map – the Reservoir, Capitol, Arsenal and Court House. Harrisburg had a steady growth in the decade before the Civil War, with the census showing an increase in population from 7,834 in 1850 to 13,405 in 1860. We also have an article about Prince Albert's 1860 American tour and his stop in Harrisburg.

Camp Curtin Historical Society and Civil War Round Table

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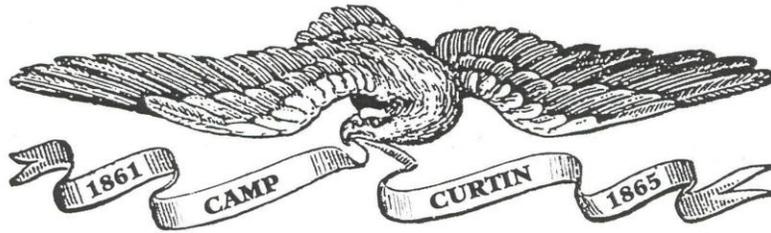
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Society at Museum Program

The Camp Curtin Historical Society joined other county and local historical societies at the Family Heritage Day at the State Museum of Pennsylvania on March 9. Families had an opportunity to learn about Pennsylvania's history, how to do genealogical research, and how to value and conserve family artifacts. Over six hundred people attended. Our display included an original musket, sword and newspaper depicting Camp Curtin. We distributed information about the Harrisburg area in the Civil War and our activities in preserving and commemorating local history. Our table was staffed by Mary & Phil Wright and Sandy Gusler.

Union Descendants Sought

Descendants of Union soldiers are encouraged to join the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Full membership is open to any man who can prove ancestry to a Union veteran, junior memberships are open to young boys, and associate memberships are available for those who have an interest in the Civil War and who subscribe to the purpose and objectives of the SUV. The local group in the Harrisburg area is the Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp No. 15 and other camps are located throughout the country. For more information, visit the website at www.suvcw.org or contact Lee Walters, National Executive Director of the SUV (Lee is also a member of the Harrisburg Camp), P.O. Box 1865, Harrisburg, PA 17105, 717-232-7000, SUVEXDIR@aol.com.

Educational Outreach

Need a speaker? Presentations for schools and organizations are available. Various Civil War topics are available and often include displays of artifacts. Email campcurtin1861@aol.com for a copy of our educational outreach brochure.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Civil War Days – June 21-22

Our annual Civil War Days, commemorating the 145th anniversary of the Confederate invasion of Cumberland Count and the defense of Harrisburg by Union forces will be held on the weekend of June 21-22. This year, we will have Union encampment and displays at Negley Park in Lemoyne rather than at Fort Couch. This site will give us more room and parking. Tentative plans call for the camp to be open for public visitation 10AM to 5PM on Saturday and 11AM to 4PM on Sunday. There will be a special program on Saturday evening, including a Civil War dance at 7:30PM and a spectacular cannon firing at sunset. All events are free. Volunteers are needed to assist with sales and displays (email campcurtin1861@aol.com to help). More details will be included in the next issue of The Bugle.

Members' Picnic – August 16

The Camp Curtin Historical Society will hold its annual members picnic at Fort Hunter on Saturday, August 16. This event is free to members and their guests. The Society supplies hot dogs and buns and we ask everyone to bring side dishes, desserts, and supplies. Mark your calendars now and plan to spend a pleasant afternoon along the sparkling Susquehanna. (Email genjenkins@aol.com for information.)

Cemetery Tours – September 7

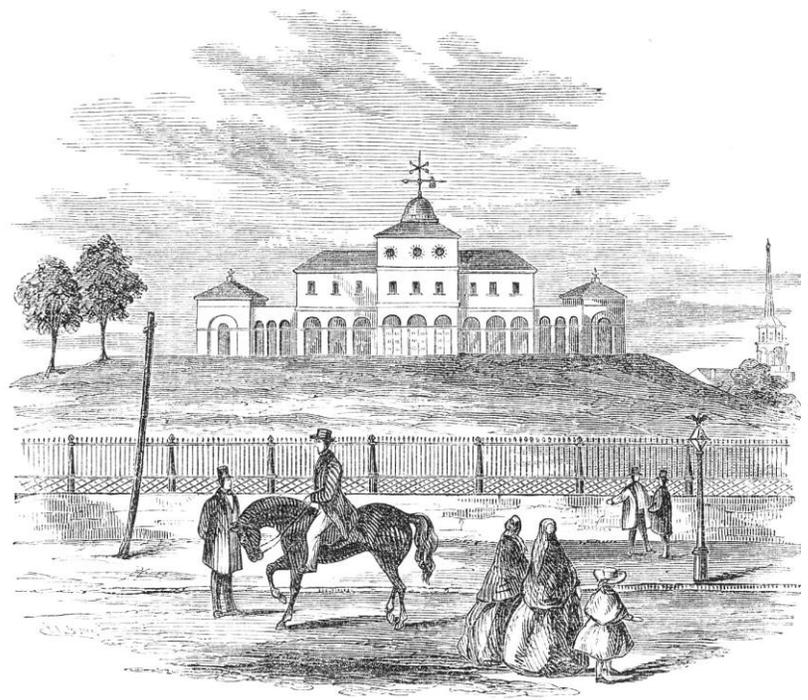
Our annual tours of the Harrisburg Cemetery will be held on Sunday, September 7. Plans are still being finalized but we should have several tours, with various themes. As always, one tour will highlight the Civil War burials in the cemetery and we will have special displays on local history. (Email genjenkins@aol.com to volunteer to help.)

The Harrisburg Area on the Eve of the Civil War

As the 1850s came to an end, no one expected the disastrous catastrophe that was steadily approaching. The great issue of slavery had been kept under control by a series of compromises that held the Union together. John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, the four-way race for the presidency in 1860, the secession of Southern states, and the firing on Fort Sumter are still in the future. Harrisburg and the nation were looking forward to a period of peace and prosperity.

The March 21, 1857, issue of *Ballou's Pictorial Drawing-Room Companion*, published in Boston, Massachusetts, published an article about Harrisburg. This illustrated newspaper was a cross between National Geographic, Life and People magazines. It featured articles about far away places, personality profiles, serialized fiction, and general news. The Harrisburg story gives a description of Harrisburg just before the Civil War. It is almost a "Chamber of Commerce" promotional piece, extolling the virtues of the area. It specifically describes the transportation connections by rail and canal, and lists the major industries.

The full text of the article begins on the next page.



UNITED STATES ARSENAL, HARRISBURG, PENN.



STATE HOUSE, HARRISBURG, PENN.

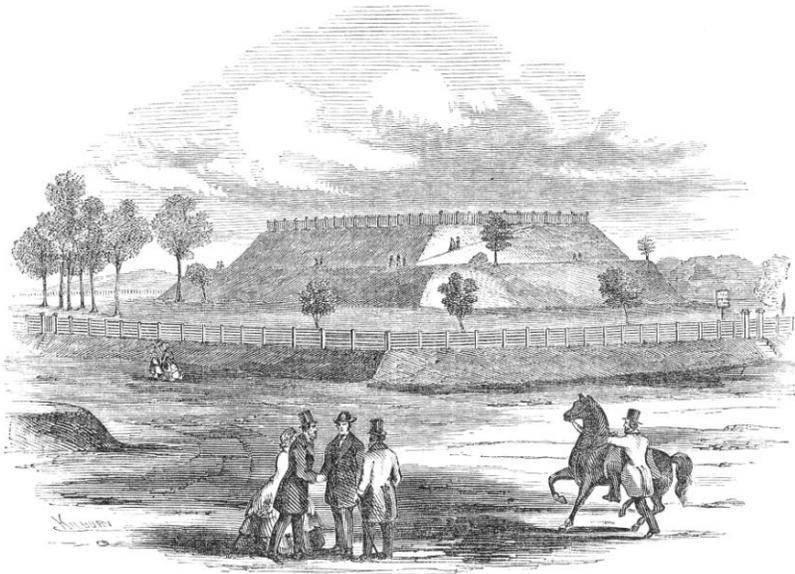
HARRISBURG, PENN.

The views of Harrisburg herewith presented were drawn on the spot expressly for us, by Mr. Kilburn, and exhibit his praiseworthy fidelity of delineation and picturesque effects.

The first picture represents the United States Arsenal, an unpretending structure, located on 3d Street. It is built for use, and not for show, and makes no pretensions to architectural elegance.

The large engraving which follows, embraces an accurate view of the State House, which stands upon a commanding elevation fronting the river Susquehanna, at the head of State Street. It is a fine, well-proportioned building, as our picture shows; the circular cupola and the dome, together with the semi-circular portico with its lofty pillars, giving it an imposing and elegant aspect. The building is 180 feet wide, 80 feet deep, and 108 feet from the ground to the summit of the cupola. The adjoining buildings are occupied by the State departments. The area in which the State House is situated, is laid out in walks, bordered with fine shade trees, which much enhances the effect which it produces.

The reservoir, shown in our third engraving, is immediately west of the State House. It is an elevated, terraced structure, supplied with water from the



RESERVOIR, HARRISBURG, PENN.



COURT HOUSE, HARRISBURG, PENN.

Susquehanna River, which is thence distributed by means of iron pipes all over the city.

The building depicted in our last engraving, surrounded by trees, is the Court House, the style being that of our public buildings some fifty years ago. Its architecture, however, is not unpleasing. The jail is situated in the rear of the Court House.

Harrisburg is situated on the east bank of the river Susquehanna, in the midst of some of the finest scenery in the United States. The river here spreads out to a considerable width, and forms a most beautiful feature in the landscape. The location of the place is unsurpassed for beauty, and it enjoys great facilities of communication with the interior and seaboard.

Harrisburg was founded by John Harris, in 1785, and was incorporated in 1808. It became the capital of Pennsylvania in 1812. In 1855, the population was estimated at about 10,000. It is about 100 miles west by north from Philadelphia.

The Pennsylvania Railroad connects at this point with the Lancaster and Harrisburg Railroad. The Lebanon Valley Railroad leads from Harrisburg to Reading, and the Cumberland Valley Railroad extends in an opposite direction. The visitor who desires a fine view of this pleasant city, should ascend to the top of the State House,

whence he will look down on the broad river studded with green islands and crossed by handsome bridges, while the Kittatiny Mountains form a bold and picturesque background to the landscape.

There are about twelve churches in Harrisburg, some of them handsome structures. A number of papers are published here, well edited, and well supported. Among the manufactories of the place are three large iron furnaces, a rolling-mill, several breweries and potteries, and an extensive railroad car manufactory.

The Susquehanna, to the beauty of which we alluded above, is formed by the [j]unction of two principal branches, which unite at Northumberland, about sixty miles above Harrisburg. From this point, the river flows nearly south to the mouth of the Juniata, and turning towards the southeast, it passes Harrisburg, Columbia and Port Deposit, and falls into the northern extremity of Chesapeake Bay, at Havre de Grace, in Maryland.

The main stream is about 150 miles long, but very unequal in breadth, sometimes expanding to a mile, and at others narrowing to a quarter of that width. Its surface is gemmed by many verdant and picturesque islets, and its channel is frequently interrupted by rocky rapids, which put a stop to navigation during low stages of the water.

A canal has been constructed along the river from its mouth to Columbia, 45 miles, and another from Columbia to Northumberland, about 80 miles. The Susquehanna is the largest stream in Pennsylvania, and flows through a fertile and populous country, which is diversified by limestone valleys, and mountain-ridges abounding in iron.

The East Branch, called also the North Branch, rises in Otsego Lake, New York, and in its winding course, estimated at 250 miles in length, intersects the beautiful and romantic valley of Wyoming, and the valuable coal region of Luzerne county. A canal has been opened beside this stream, about 124 miles above Northumberland.

The West Branch rises in Cambria county, Pennsylvania, on the western declivity of the Alleghany Mountains, and follows a winding course of 200 miles in length, through a region abounding in pine timber and hard coal.

The Susquehanna and its branches are invaluable to the development of the wealth of Pennsylvania.

The original of Ballou's newspaper used for this article is in the Keener-Farley collection. The author of the article was not credited although the artist of the drawings, Mr. Kilburn, was noted in the beginning of the story.

The Last Diversion Before the War

During the latter half of 1860, America was consumed with the contentious four-way race for the presidency. Passions rose as supporters campaigned for Bell, Breckenridge, Douglas, and Lincoln. In September and October, however, America's attention was diverted away from the election and the possibility of secession. Much like today, a celebrity became front page news and every action was reported in detail.

Albert, Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, made a state visit to Canada. He then entered the United States on September 20th for an informal tour. Since this was not an official visit, Albert traveled incognito as "Lord Renfrew." Initially, people tried to keep up the pretense that he was not a member of the royal family but soon he was publicly acknowledged at ceremonies and in the press as the Prince of Wales.

Prior to the trip, newspapers on both sides of the Atlantic were concerned about the Prince's reception. This was the first time a royal from Britain had visited the United States. Would the memory of King George III, the Revolution and the War of 1812 cause hostility? For the most part, Americans forgot their traditional disdain for royalty. The nineteen year old Prince charmed everyone with his good humor and polite manners as he endured numerous speeches, parades, balls, ceremonies and tours of local sites.

After touring the Midwest and stopping in Detroit, Chicago and St. Louis, the royal party headed east. The Prince arrived at the Harrisburg train station on the evening of October 2nd and spent the night at the Jones House on Market Square. The next day, Prince Albert visited the Capitol and was officially greeted by Governor Packer. As part of the tour, he was shown the Charter given to William Penn by King Charles, sat in the chair used by John Hancock at the Continental Congress when it approved the Declaration of Independence, and climbed up to the cupola to view the Susquehanna Valley. The royal party then boarded a train and headed for Washington.

In Washington he met President James Buchanan and his niece, Harriet Lane, who served as first lady at the White House. They were all well-acquainted, Buchanan having served as ambassador to Britain years before. Tongues wagged when Albert and Harriet seemed to spend too much time renewing their old friendship. While in the nation's capital, Albert made a side trip to Mount Vernon and visited George Washington's tomb. The royal party moved on to Richmond, then north to Philadelphia and New York.



"Here he comes!" a quick turn of the head and "There he goes!" describes what most Americans saw of Prince Albert on his tour. The top two panels show incidents during the trip, playing ten pins with Harriet Lane at the White House and being tripped at a crowded ball. *Harper's Weekly*, October 20, 1860.

Both of the great cities tried to show the real class of America with impressive balls and ceremonies. In New York a minor problem arose when the Irish members of the state militia refused to march in a parade honoring the Prince because of Britain's policies in Ireland. The royal party then went to Boston and departed from Portland, Maine.

Albert's trip to the United States probably helped to cement American-British relations that would soon be strained but never broken during the Civil War. For a few brief weeks, Americans were able to set aside their differences and be consumed with the trifling visit of a celebrity. It was one last diversion before the darkness set in.



The Camp Curtin Historical Society

proudly presents

Keith Scott MacGregor

speaking on the

“The Grand Army of the Republic: The Loyal Boys in Blue”



Keith will discuss the origins of the GAR and its influence on American society, including the administrations of the five Grand Army Presidents of the United States.

Keith's Power Point illustrated talk will also include the GAR encampments (conventions), the trappings of the organization, and the Department of Pennsylvania. He will also discuss the Final Encampment and Albert Woolsen, the last Union survivor of the Civil War.

Keith will also be displaying GAR artifacts from his extensive collection.



Join us for this fascinating look at the Union veterans after the war.

2:00PM, Sunday, April 6, 2008

**at the Camp Curtin Memorial-Mitchell United Methodist Church
2221 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

*This program is free and open to the public so bring a friend.
Refreshments and social hour will follow the presentation.*

For directions or information, Telephone 717-732-5330

(Email campcurtin1861@aol.com)