

# The Bugle



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

Summer 2009  
Volume 19, Number 2



*The Pennsylvania Memorial 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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## ***October 25 – Monument Clean-Up***

Camp Curtin will conduct its semi-annual clean-up of the 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry Monument site at the Gettysburg National Military Park on October 25. To volunteer, call Jack Thomas at 717-766-1899.

## ***November 8 – Sickles at Gettysburg Lecture***

James Hessler, a Gettysburg licensed battlefield guide, will discuss his new book, *Sickles at Gettysburg: The Controversial Civil War General Who Committed Murder, Abandoned Little Round Top, and Declared Himself the Hero of Gettysburg*, at our 2:00PM, November 8 meeting at the National Civil War Museum.



No individual who fought at Gettysburg was more controversial, both personally and professionally, than Major General Daniel E. Sickles. By 1863, Sickles was notorious as a disgraced former Congressman who murdered his wife's lover on the streets of Washington and used America's first temporary insanity defense to escape justice. At Gettysburg, he openly disobeyed orders in one of the most controversial decisions in military history. No single action dictated the battlefield strategies of George Meade and Robert E. Lee more than Sickles' unauthorized advance to the Peach

Orchard, and the mythic defense of Little Round Top might have occurred quite differently were it not for General Sickles. Fighting heroically, Sickles lost his leg on the field and later worked to remove General Meade from command of the army. Although he nearly lost the battle, Sickles was one of the earliest guardians of the battlefield when he returned to Congress, created Gettysburg National Military Park, and helped preserve the field for future generations. Mark your calendar and join us for this fascinating story and a special display of Sickles' artifacts.

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**Cover:** *The Gettysburg National Military Park is internationally famous for having the best Civil War museum, one of only two cyclorama paintings in the nation, and the largest number of monuments of any battlefield in the world. The Pennsylvania Memorial is the largest monument and the topic of this issue's feature article.*

## ***Camp Curtin Historical Society and Civil War Round Table***

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## Civil War Days

The Camp Curtin Historical Society held its annual Civil War Days on June 21 and 22 at Lemoyne's Negley Park. Throughout the weekend, Cooper's Battery maintained an encampment and the Society displayed artifacts in the picnic pavilion.



**Cooper's Battery fired their 12 Pounder Howitzer and explained the use of artillery during the war.**

Most of Saturday was somewhat soggy. We managed the scheduled 1PM cannon firing demonstration during a break in the rain but had to cancel the 3PM firing as heavy rain came down. Almost miraculously, the rain stopped and the gray skies cleared. The evening Civil War dance and the nighttime cannon firing went off without any rain and the good weather held through Sunday and hundreds of visitors learned about our local Civil War history.



**Dancers from the Civil War Dance Foundation led guests through an evening of 19th century entertainment.**

## Klinepeter Honored

David Klinepeter received the Governor Andrew Curtin Governor's Cup Award at our Annual Civil War Days. The award was given to Dave in recognition of his years of service to the Camp Curtin Historical Society and the Civil War community.



**Dave Klinepeter (right) accepts the Governor's Cup from CCHS President Larry Keener-Farley.**

Klinepeter has had a lifelong interest in the Civil War and has been a member of the Sons of Union Veterans since he was a boy. He attended the Final Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1949, the last time the Union veterans of the Civil War gathered in convention, served as Camp Commander of the Harrisburg chapter of the SUV and is presently its historian and patriotic instructor. He was a member of the North-South Skirmish Association and served with Knap's Battery.

Dave has been active in numerous historical organizations, and when the Camp Curtin Historical Society was formed, he answered the call to portray Governor Curtin. Since then, he has done countless programs on Curtin's life and with President Lincoln/Jim Getty is a fixture at Dedication Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies. He is perhaps better known by more reenactors as "The Guv" than he is by his own name. Dave keeps his youth by dancing the polka and Civil War dancing.

# Statues on the Pennsylvania Memorial

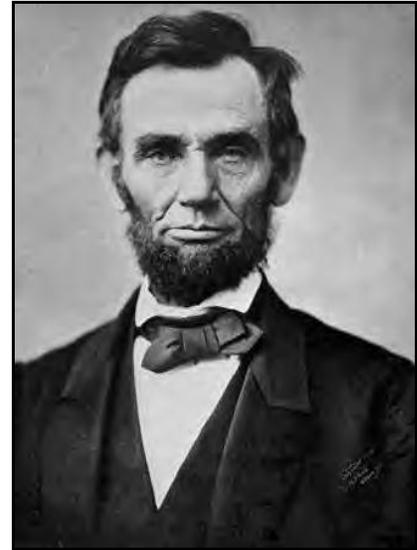
The Pennsylvania Memorial is the largest monument at the Gettysburg National Military Park. It is one of the most visited stops on the auto tour and its observation deck allows a magnificent view of the battlefield.



In 1907, the Pennsylvania Legislature appropriated \$150,000 for a memorial to honor all of the state's troops that served in the Gettysburg Campaign. Liance Cottrell, a New York Architect, won the design competition with beaux-arts design that incorporated four arches and a dome, topped by a bronze winged Victory. Atop each arch is a bas relief carving showing the infantry, artillery, cavalry and signal corps in action. Eighty-six bronze plates listed the names of all soldiers in the Pennsylvania regiments that participated in the battle. The initial construction phase of the monument was completed in 1910. Eight additional statues were added in time for the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1913.

As tourists walk around the huge edifice, they often point to the eight statues, recognizing some and asking who the others are and why they are on the monument. Two civilians and six officers are honored with eight foot tall bronze statues.

**President Abraham Lincoln** stands on the left side of the west arch and grand staircase. Lincoln, of course, spoke at the dedication of the National Cemetery. The photograph on the right was taken by Alexander Gardner on November 8, 1863, just eleven days before Lincoln's greatest speech.



*Lincoln*

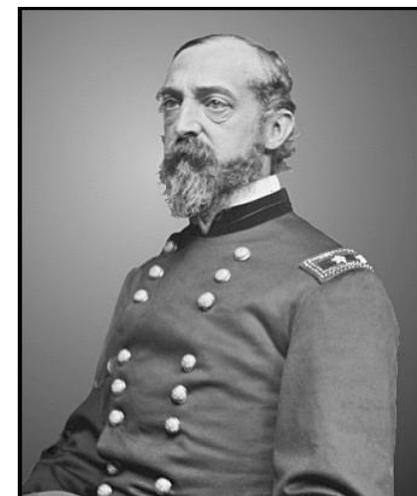
**Governor Andrew G. Curtin** of Pennsylvania is also on the west front of the monument. Elected in 1860, he was the youngest governor at the time. Curtin led the Commonwealth through the Civil War and was often referred to as "the soldier's friend." He was reelected in 1863 and later served as ambassador to Russia and as a U.S. Congressman.



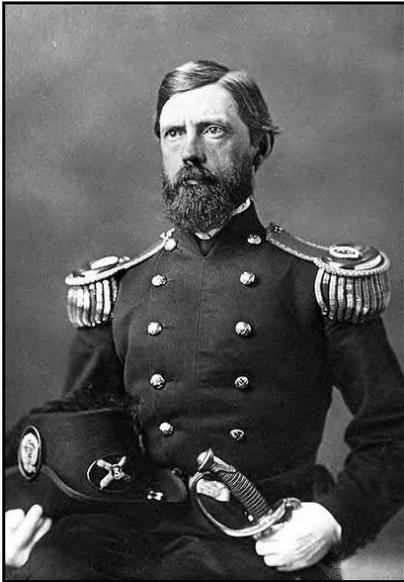
*Curtin*

In addition to the statue on the Pennsylvania Memorial, there are three other copies of this likeness of Curtin. One is in his hometown of Bellefonte, where he is buried, and two are in Harrisburg, one at the site of Camp Curtin and the other in the rotunda of the State Capitol Building.

**George G. Meade** was born in 1815 in Cadiz, Spain, while his father was there on business. Returning to the family home in Philadelphia, Meade secured an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy and graduated in 1835. He served in the Mexican War and was a captain in the Topographical Engineers when the Civil War started.



*Meade*



*Reynolds*



*Hancock*

Meade was appointed a brigadier general in the United States Volunteers in August 1861 and a major general in November 1862. He fought in most of the major battles in the east, commanding various brigades, divisions and finally the 5th Army Corps. After Hooker's disastrous defeat at Chancellorsville, Meade was ordered to take command of the Army of the Potomac on June 28, 1863, while the army was on the march to Gettysburg. Meade led the army to victory but President Lincoln was disappointed that he did not pursue the Confederates and destroy the Army of Northern Virginia.

He continued in command of the Army of the Potomac but was overshadowed by General Grant, the new General-in-Chief, who made his headquarters with that army and effectively commanded the operations that led to the surrender at Appomattox. Meade was promoted to major general in the regular army and commanded the Division of the Atlantic after the war. He died in 1872 and is buried in Philadelphia. In addition to the statue on the Pennsylvania Memorial, Meade is also honored with an equestrian statue just behind the "high water mark" on Cemetery Ridge.

**John F. Reynolds** was born in Lancaster in 1820. He graduated from the U. S. Military Academy in 1841, served with the artillery in the Mexican War, and was commandant of the Corps of Cadets at West Point when the war began. Like Meade, he was appointed a general in the United States Volunteers and rose from brigade to division to corps command. He had the unusual experience of being captured during the Seven Days Battles in 1862 but was exchanged within a few weeks.

Reynolds was initially considered for command of the Army of the Potomac after Chancellorsville but he declined. As the army marched toward Gettysburg, Reynolds commanded the 1st Army Corps and the "left wing" of the army that also included the 3rd and 11th Army Corps. Arriving on the battlefield on the morning of July 1, Reynolds quickly assessed the situation and decided to fight a delaying action northwest of Gettysburg so that the army could eventually hold the high ground south of town.

His strategy was probably the most crucial decision of the first day and it ultimately led to victory. Unfortunately, Reynolds was killed as he was placing the Iron Brigade in

position and the army lost one of its most popular commanders. Reynolds is buried in Lancaster and three statues at Gettysburg honor his memory, two full length statues (one on the Pennsylvania Memorial and the other in the National Cemetery) and an equestrian statue along the Chambersburg Pike on the first day's battlefield.

**Winfield S. Hancock** was born in Norristown in 1824. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1844, served in the Mexican War and was a quartermaster in California when the Civil War started. Returning east, he was appointed a brigadier general of volunteers and rose to a second star and commanded the 2nd Army Corps at Gettysburg. When Meade learned of Reynolds' death, he ordered Hancock to ride to Gettysburg to take command, despite the fact that other senior officers were already present on the battlefield. Meade's confidence in Hancock was justified as he rallied the troops and established a strong defensive position on Cemetery Hill and Cemetery Ridge as Reynolds had envisioned. On July 3, the 2nd Army Corps bore the brunt of Pickett's Charge but just at the moment of victory, Hancock was wounded. He would be plagued by the injury for the rest of his life. After partially recuperating, Hancock fought in the Overland Campaign but his wound eventually forced him to give up his active field command.

Hancock remained in the army after the war, commanding several departments and was made a major general in the regular army. In 1880, he was the Democratic candidate for president but lost to James Garfield. Hancock died on active duty in 1886 and is buried in Norristown. In addition to the statue on the Pennsylvania memorial, there is also an equestrian statue of Hancock on Cemetery Hill.

**Alfred S. Pleasonton** was born in Washington, D.C., in 1824. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1844 and was assigned to the dragoons (later redesignated cavalry). Pleasonton fought in the Mexican War, the Seminole War in Florida and served on the frontier, returning east with his regiment from Utah in 1861. He was promoted to brigadier general of volunteers in July 1862 and commanded a division of cavalry. After the Battle of Chancellorsville, Pleasonton was given command of the Cavalry Corps and promoted to Major General of U.S. Volunteers. The Union cavalry was finally becoming the equal of the Confederate troopers and Pleasonton was in the fortunate position of command during the Northern victories at Brandy Station and Gettysburg although most historians agree he had little impact on the outcome of either battle. When Grant took command in the east in the spring of 1864, he appointed Sheridan to command the Cavalry Corps and Pleasonton was sent to Missouri. He resigned from the army in 1866 and held government appointed positions and worked in railroading until he died in 1897.

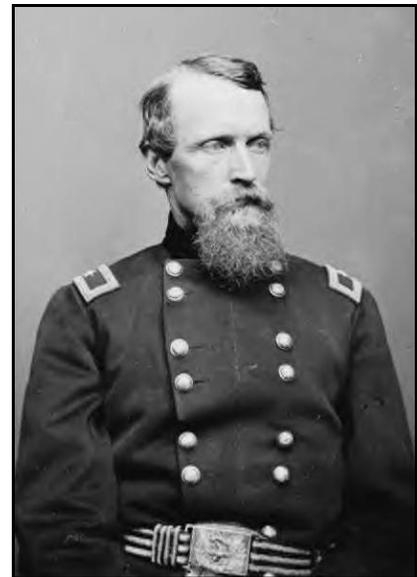
**David B. Birney** was born in Huntsville, Alabama, in 1825, but the family moved to Ohio when he was 13 because of his father's outspoken support of abolition. Birney moved to Philadelphia in 1856, where he practiced law, engaged in business and joined the local militia. He is the only military man on the monument who did not attend West Point. With the coming of the war, he served as lieutenant colonel of the 23rd Pennsylvania Volunteers, a ninety day regiment. When the unit reenlisted for three years, he was commissioned colonel by Governor Curtin. In 1862, he was promoted to brigadier general of volunteers and awarded his

second star in May 1863. At Gettysburg, Birney commanded a division in the 3rd Army Corps under Maj. Gen. Daniel Sickles. On July 2, Sickles ordered Birney's division out to the Emmitsburg Road, creating an almost indefensible salient. When Sickles was wounded during the fighting, Birney succeeded to command of the corps. When the 3rd Army Corps was disbanded, Birney was transferred to command of a division in the 2nd Corps and briefly commanded the corps when Hancock went on medical leave. In October 1864, he fell ill, returned home to Philadelphia and died.

**David M. Gregg** was born in Huntingdon in 1833, the first cousin of Governor Curtin. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1855 and was assigned to the dragoons (later redesignated cavalry). He served on the western frontier and was in California when the war started. Returning to his home state, his cousin commissioned him colonel of the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry. He was promoted to brigadier general of U.S. Volunteers in 1862 and major general in 1864, rising to division command in the Cavalry Corps. At Gettysburg, Gregg command the 2nd Cavalry Division and fought J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry on the third day east of the Union's main line and gained what was described as "one of the most conspicuous cavalry victories of the war." Unfortunately, Gregg was somewhat neglected by the press who gave more coverage to the flamboyant George Custer. He served during the Overland Campaign with much distinction until he resigned from the army for unexplained "personal reasons" in February 1865. He returned to Reading and operated a farm. During the Grant administration, he briefly served as ambassador to Prague. Gregg died in 1916 and is buried in Reading.



*Pleasonton*



*Birney*



*Gregg*

# New Descendant Brigade Organized

The Camp Curtin Historical Society has created a new organization. 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 (make your check payable to Camp Curtin Historical Society). 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.

The following is a list of units that passed through Camp Curtin. Please note that there may be others. As long as applicants can provide adequate documentation, their membership will be approved.

## **Pennsylvania Volunteers (PV) Regiments:**

1-16, 25, 28, 29, 30-44 (1-15 Reserves), 45-59, 61, 62, 64, 67, 68, 73-76, 78-81, 83-84, 87, 89, 92, 94, 100-103, 105-108, 110, 111, 114, 115, 116, 122-138, 140-143, 145, 147-151, 153, 155, 161-163, 166-169, 171-173, 176-179, 181, 182, 184, 185, 187, 190-192, 194, 195, 200-202, 205, 207-211.

**Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiments:** 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22.

## **Pennsylvania Independent Cavalry**

**Troops/Companies:** Baldwin, Brown (Luzerne), Comly, Jones, Lambert, Murray, Myers, Sanno, Stroud, Warren, Young (Middletown).

**Pennsylvania Artillery Regiments:** 1

**Pennsylvania Independent Artillery Batteries:** B, G, I, Dougherty, Hasting, Landis, Miller.

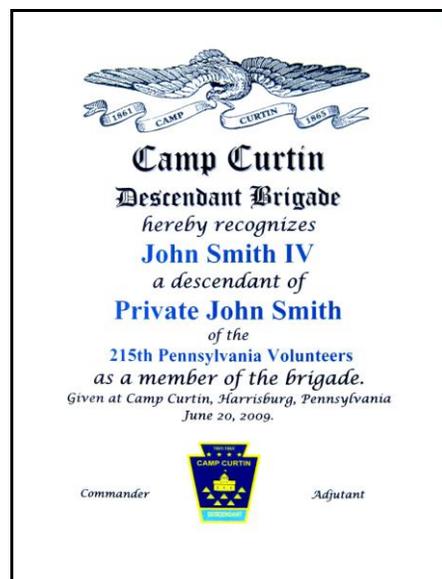
**Pennsylvania Militia of 1862 Regiments:** 1, 2, 7, 15, 20

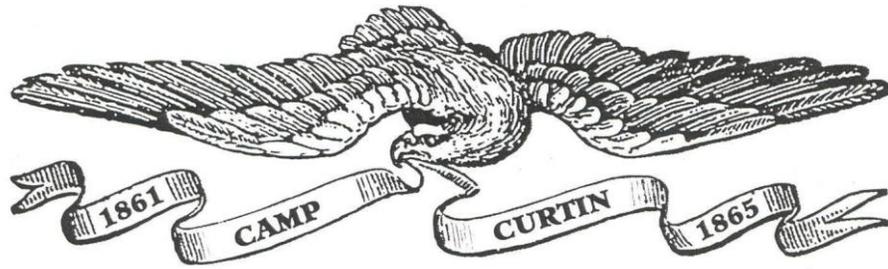
**Pennsylvania Emergency Militia of 1863 Regiments:** 20, 26, 28, 29, 30-33, 35-37, 39, 40, 43-47, 49, 50, plus 1 Independent Battalion of Infantry, and 1 Independent Battalion of Cavalry.

**Units from other states:** 1, 2, 4, 26 Michigan, 1 Minnesota, 1, 23 New Jersey, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 22, 23, 28, 37, 56, 65, 68, 71, 74, New York State National Guard, 11 NY Heavy Artillery, 176 NY Volunteer Infantry, 2, 4, 5, 6, 19, Wisconsin, Patterson's Cavalry Company of 1st Virginia Union Volunteers.

**United States Units:** 2 US Cavalry Co E, 5 US Artillery Battery I.

For more information or to receive an application form, email [campcurtin1861@aol.com](mailto:campcurtin1861@aol.com) or telephone 717-732-5330.





## **The Camp Curtin Historical Society Harrisburg Cemetery Tours Sunday, September 13**



*All tours will leave from the Caretaker's House starting at 12:30PM.*

*Visit the graves and hear the stories of numerous personalities who influenced local, state and national events in the 19th century. Visitors will learn about Lincoln's first Secretary of War, Simon Cameron, and Brig. Gen. Joseph Knipe, the man who named Camp Curtin. They will hear the story of the Confederates buried in Harrisburg, admire Maj. Gen. John Geary's beautifully restored monument, and see Mary Todd Lincoln's great grandfather's grave. The tours will visit more than two dozen "residents" of the cemetery.*

*Visit a Civil War encampment.  
Meet Victorian mourners and picnickers.  
See a display of Civil War artifacts.*

*Adults - \$5.00 (CCHS Members - \$4.00) Children under 16 - \$1.00  
Harrisburg Cemetery is at the eastern end of the State Street Bridge.*

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