LICENSED GUIDING at Gettysburg 1915 2015 100 YEARS

GETTYSBURG LICENSED BATTLEFIELD GUIDES 50 1968 - Women in Guiding - 2018

Photo by John Armstrong

THE ASSOCIATION OF LICENSED BATTLEFIELD GUIDES®
GETTYSBURG, PA

Battlefield Dispatch

Vol. 42 No. 6 December 2024

"With one terrible exception, the Civil War, law and the Constitution have kept America whole and free."
– Anthony Lewis

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NEWS FROM • FOR • AND ABOUT YOUR ASSOCIATION

Contributed by LBG Phil Muskett, ALBG President

Clio has almost completed another yearbook. The leaves are falling, the tours are becoming fewer. Time for us all to reflect and prepare for next year.

NOVEMBER, WE COMPLETED OUR ELECTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2025. I want to thank Chris Rebmann, Jim Cooke (Treasurer) and Deb Novotny for their service to the ALBG over their many years of service.

I also want to congratulate those who won election or reelection to the Executive Committee for 2025. Those being reelected are Fred Hawthorne (Secretary) and Phil Muskett (President) for one-year terms. Gary Vezza was reelected as an Executive Committee member for two years. The newcomers to the Executive committee are Ralph Siegel and Paul Bailey; their terms are two years. At the end of the November business meeting, Bruce Rice stepped forward and offered to serve as Treasurer. We sent out a second, separate surveymonkey vote and Bruce was elected Treasurer. So we also welcome Bruce to the Executive Council in January.

THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE WORKED TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE NPS AND FOUNDATION. We were involved in the Foundation Seminars, the NPS Anniversary events and winter lectures. (Two Guides are involved in this winter's lectures.)

This coming year, we plan to continue meeting with and growing our involvement in many of the programs the NPS and Foundation provide.

BRUCE RICE IS WORKING WITH LORI WRIGHT OF THE GETTYSBURG FOUNDATION TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO TESSITURA. We have had 4 meetings this past year, meeting monthly and continuing into the new year. Keep those comments and suggestions coming so we can get that system working better for us.

I WILL BE MEETING WITH STEPHANIE LIGHTNER at the Heritage Center in early December to discuss their 2025 plans and the opportunities to help there. They have continued to support us over the past year. Many times, that support was at no cost to us.

I am excited about the upcoming events for 2025. **ASSOCIATES DAY** will be back in the spring. Gary Vezza is working on the details and will be releasing information soon about it. We are also having an **HONORS BANQUET** open to all Guides on **January 25th.** The purpose of this Banquet is to honor those on the Guide Force with more than 40 years of service. Mike Rupert, Jessie Wheedleton and Gary Vezza are working hard to make this a special evening for the special guests. We will have more information released on this event soon. Our hopes are that this will continue into the future.

From me, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year. See you in the Guide Room.

Battlefield Guide Written Test Given on December 7

On December 7, for the first time in seven years, about 150 candidates presented themselves to take the first step in becoming a Licensed Battlefield Guide: an all-day written test was administered by the National Park Service with the assistance of the Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guides. Guides participated in the creation of the written test, were on hand to proctor the test, and will also participate in the grading of the tests.

A recent article in the Wall Street Journal covered the testing process and

see TEST cont. on pg. 2

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides®
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The ALBG was founded in 1916 as the official organization to represent and promote licensed guiding at Gettysburg.

Interested individuals who do not hold guide licenses may join the ALBG as Associate members by submitting annual dues of $25. Membership includes a subscription to the *Battlefield Dispatch* and covers the fiscal year July 1– June 30.

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Don't forget to like ALBG on Facebook!

TEST cont. from page 1

described it as the "Hardest Test in History". We arrived ahead of the candidates and received instructions from Supervisory Park Ranger Angie Atkinson. Coffee and doughnuts were provided courtesy of LBG John Fitzpatrick. We welcomed the candidates into the Gettysburg branch of HACC, got them in their seats, and the test began at 9 A.M. There were 385 points consisting of questions to answer or objects to identify. This phase ended at noon and the candidates got an hour break, while the NPS provided lunch to the proctors. In the afternoon the candidates returned and wrote three essays to complete the exam. The tests will be graded during the next few weeks.

During the day, LBG Fran Feyock returned to Angie LBG badge #166, previously worn by our deceased colleague, LBG Dr. Rick Schroeder, who passed this past September. Fran requested that the badge be passed to a successful LBG candidate who is also a physician. It will be a fitting tribute to Rick to have the badge back in service on the battlefield.

The volunteer force of guide proctors at the end of a long day. Left to right:

Wayne Motts, Angie Atkinson (NPS), Anthony Nicastro, Jasan Hileman, Phil Muskett, Rob Abbott, Steve Slaughter, Bill Trelease, Carol Reardon, Jeff Wolf, Susan Strumello, Tom Clark, Deb Novotny, Jim Fouts, John Fitzpatrick, Fred Hawthorne, Tracy Baer, Jim Cooke, Dave Hamacher, Fran Feyock, Paul Bailey.

Gettysburg Rocks ... Where Are They Now?

Contributed by LBG Deb Novotny

The first seven rocks were initially described in an article in the March 2015 Battlefield Dispatch. Deb has updated her article to include two more.

Ever think about the rocks we no longer have on the battlefield? Of course, we'll never know the whereabouts of the ones taken by visitors, but what about the ones "legally" removed? This article will describe nine I have seen or know about. If you know of any others, please let me know.

1. George G. Meade Takes Command Near Frederick, Maryland: The Pennsylvania Historical

Commission asked Gettysburg Military Park Superintendent Col. E. E. Davis for a boulder to be placed where General Meade assumed command of the Army of the Potomac. The Superintendent chose a "huge boulder at Devil's Den from which the ten-ton rock will be carved." Paul Phillippe Cret would design the tablet for it. Cret would later design the Eternal Light Peace Memorial and the World War I American Cemetery memorial in Flanders Field. Dedication was held on June 28, 1930 with the main speaker Major Isaac R. Pennypacker, the "best authority on Meade." It was placed not where Meade was promoted but at Prospect Hall, the site of General Joseph Hooker's headquarters. Look for it on Himes Avenue.

2. General George Sears Greene Gravestone in Warwick, Rhode Island

The "Savior of Culp's Hill" "Old Pop" Greene was the oldest Union general at Gettysburg (62 years). At his request, a rock from Culp's Hill became his tombstone when he died January 28, 1899 at age 97. Some of my fellow guides think they know where the rock originally was! When I visited his grave, a bronze tablet was attached to the boulder which recounted an extensive biography of Greene. Since then, the tablet had been stolen, pawned at a metal junk yard, retrieved, and placed at the Warwick City Hall. But the two-ton rock is still there and a recarved granite tablet plus a bronze Veteran's Administration flat marker is in the Greene Family Cemetery off Tanner Avenue in Apponaug, Warwick, Rhode Island.

see GBURG ROCKS cont. on pg. 4

Daniel Bidwell at Gettysburg and Cedar Creek

Contributed by Associate Member Robert Swift

Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Bidwell uttered some memorable words moments after being devastatingly hit by a shell and knocked off his horse on Cemetery Hill, the place where Union soldiers made a brief stand during the Battle of Cedar Creek on October 19, 1864.

"Tell them I died at my post doing my duty," he said.

Bidwell was mortally wounded and died later that day.

The year before, then Col. Bidwell (1819-1864) was commander of a New York regiment guarding the extreme right flank of the Union line at Wolf Hill, east of Rock Creek, on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg. Wolf Hill, south of Culp's Hill and East Cemetery Hill, is known today as the site of "Lost Avenue" or Neill Avenue, the in-pocket of military park land that is hard for visitors to access.

(Note: I've benefited from Dean Shultz's guided tours of this area.)

Bidwell, an elected Buffalo city official from a prominent family, helped form the 49th New York Infantry from recruits in western New York in the fall of 1861. Bidwell had experience serving in the New York militia before the Civil War.

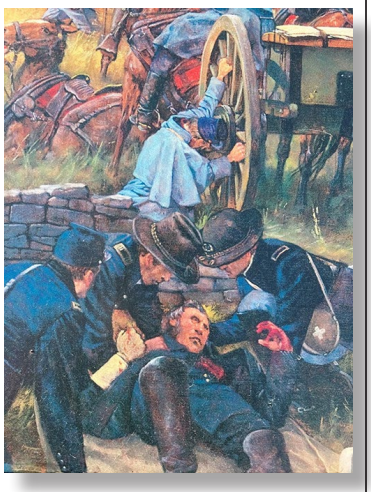
The 49th regiment fought in the Seven Days Battles on the Peninsula, Crampton's Gap and Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville prior to Gettysburg. June 1863 saw the 49th marching north to Gettysburg from Virginia through Westminster, MD as part of the Sixth Corps and Third Brigade under Gen. Thomas H. Neill.

On the morning of July 3, the 49th and other regiments of the brigade were ordered to Wolf Hill on the extreme right of the Fishhook defensive line to prevent a turning movement by Confederate forces that could threaten Union supply lines on Baltimore Pike.

"Upon taking position, I felt the enemy strong in sharpshooters, and put my whole brigade in position here, and stopped them from going any further," wrote Neill in an August 3 report.

The fighting with Confederate sharpshooters around the Zephaniah Taney Farm resulted in the loss of one officer and 13 enlisted men killed or wounded for the brigade, Neill wrote.

"The morning of July 3rd found the Forty-ninth occupying a position on Rock Creek, upon the extreme right flank – a position which to many thinking minds, if Lee's plans had not miscarried, might have proved to be the vital point of action in the Battle of Gettysburg. To many it will seem that the placing of the Third Brigade in the position they occupied was sending them to an undoubted and unmistakable place of honor," 49th Veteran John H. Pickett told 150 survivors at the dedication of the regimental monument on Neill Avenue on July 2, 1893.



Instead of that distinction, the 49th was part of the slow Union pursuit of Gen. Lee's retreating army starting on July 5. The 49th engaged in a skirmish with the Confederate rear guard at Fairfield and then advanced to Warrenton and Culpeper by late July.

The 49th regiment saw its heaviest action and losses during the 1864 battles at Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and then Cedar Creek in the Shenandoah Valley.

Bidwell was commissioned a brigadier general in August 1864.

A month later, Confederate Gen. Jubal Early launched his surprise attack at Cedar Creek on sleeping Union soldiers north of Strasburg. The Sixth Corp division of Brig. Gen. George Washington Getty made a stand to stop the advancing Confederate forces at the Mt. Carmel cemetery on a hill overlooking Middletown. The division held off two Confederate assaults and then Early launched a cannonade with 30 pieces of artillery aimed at the cemetery. One shell struck Bidwell, commanding the Third Brigade, in the shoulders and lungs. Bidwell indicated he knew the wound was mortal. Bidwell's successor, Lt. Col. Winsor French, steadied the line, urging them not to run until the Vermonters do. Getty withdrew from the cemetery position about 9:30 a.m. and it seemed that Early had won a major victory. But Union Gen. Philip Sheridan saved the day with a successful counterattack in the afternoon.

Bidwell was one of three prominent Union officers from western New York who lost their lives in fighting in the Eastern Theater during 1864. Gen. James Wadsworth of Geneseo, who commanded the First Division of the First Corps at Gettysburg, was mortally wounded at the Wilderness. Col. Peter A. Porter, from a prominent Niagara Falls family (his father was a secretary of war under President John Quincy Adams), was killed at Cold Harbor.

Bidwell is remembered in Buffalo today with Bidwell Parkway, an equestrian statue installed in 1924 on Colonial Circle, and a statue at his grave in Forest Lawn Cemetery near the gravesite of President Millard Fillmore.

GBURG ROCKS cont. from page 2

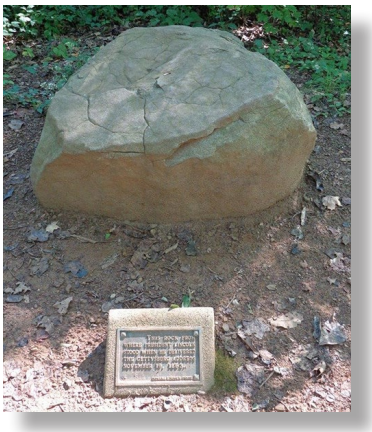
3. Lisbon, Iowa

In 1916 two men, William F. Stahl and Charles Delo, petitioned the War Department and the Gettysburg Park Commission for a rock from Gettysburg to be placed in the Lisbon Cemetery as a remembrance of the soldiers and sailors who served their country during the Civil War. This was initiated by the Women's Relief Corps No. 254 of Iowa. They were given permission to take a boulder from the right flank of the Army of the Potomac near the Baltimore Pike. They transported the 5' x 6' x 3' rock by train to Cedar Rapids and then by electric trolley to Lisbon. On Decoration Day 1916 the Gettysburg boulder was unveiled. It is now protected by an open-sided canopy and ceremonies are held at it on Memorial Day.

4. Clark Park in Spruce Hill District of West Philadelphia

Satterlee Hospital was the largest U.S. hospital during the Civil War. It was located on 15 acres in what is now the Spruce Hill District of West Philadelphia between 42nd and 45th streets. It could house 4500 plus more in tents. From 1862 to August 1865, over 60,000 were treated and up to May 1864 only 260 had died, a fantastic record. During its 4 years of existence some 100 Sisters of Charity who lived in a convent on the grounds provided the nursing. After the battle of Gettysburg, 4000 wounded were transported by train to Satterlee. After the war, the buildings were burned and a residential area overtook what was the hospital site. Nine-acre Clark Park is located at the southern tip of Satterlee. In the northwest corner of the park, a boulder from Devil's Den was dedicated in June 1916 to "recall the Union soldiers treated on the site and the services of the patriotic men and women who cared for them. If you visit Clark Park, go down to see the sitting statue of Charles Dickens and Little Nell. It is one of only two statues of Dickens in the world. The other is in Australia! (Dickens said he wanted no statues of himself. He said his legacy would be his books.) This statue was sculpted by Francis Elwell in 1890. Elwell did our Winfield Scott Hancock equestrian statue on East Cemetery Hill.

5. Trail of Twelve Stones in Indiana



In 1931 the Indiana Lincoln Union laid out a half-mile long trail between the site of the Lincoln cabin at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial to the pioneer cemetery where Nancy Hanks Lincoln is buried. Along the trail there are twelve stones (actually one is a brick) associated with Abraham Lincoln's life. Stone Number 9 is from Gettysburg.

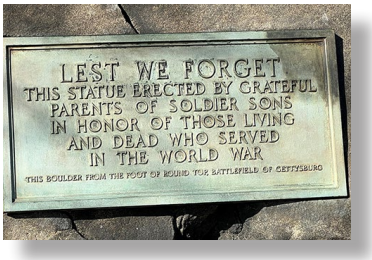
6. General G. K. Warren's Statue in Brooklyn, New York City

On July 4, 1896, a statue of General Warren (similar but exactly like ours) was unveiled in the Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn, New York City. The sculptor was Henry Baerer. The cost was $10,000 and was commissioned by the G.K. Warren Post No. 286 of the GAR. The pedestal Warren stands on was made of granite from Little Round Top.

7. Malta, Ohio

I just found out about this one [as noted in Deb's 2015 article] and have not yet visited it. The Phil H. Sheridan Post No. 328 GAR put this Gettysburg rock in front of the Malta Town Hall near Main and 5th Streets. It was presented by Thomas Henry Simpson in 1923. Malta is southwest of Zanesville, so when I visit the grave of Lt. Charles E. Hazlett, I'll be sure to take a side trip to check this rock out!

8. Harrisburg World War I Memorial

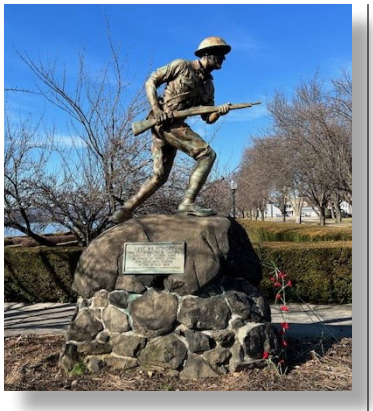


"Lest We Forget" WWI Doughboy, dedicated on Veterans Day 1922 is located at Cumberland St. and North Front St. in Harrisburg's River Front Park. There is a plaque on the base that says the boulder was taken from the "foot of Round Top."

see GBURG ROCKS cont. on pg. 5

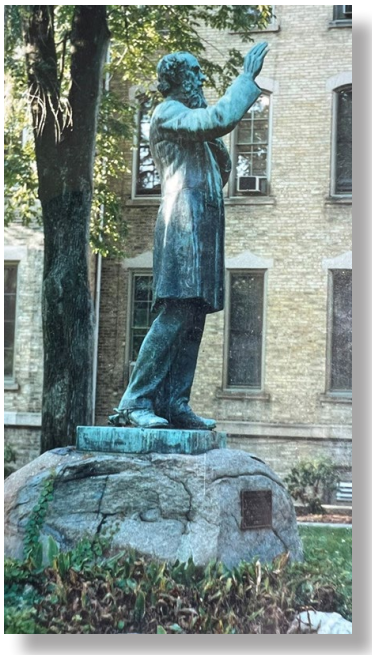
GBURG ROCKS cont. from page 4

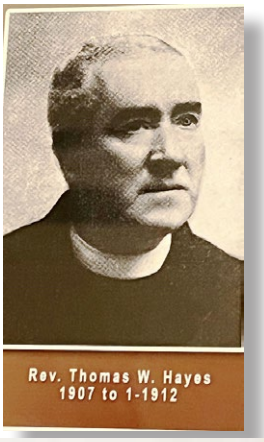
Another source says the 3-ton rock came from Little Round Top and bears the marks where bullets hit it. Permission to take the boulder was given by Secretary of War, John W. Weeks.

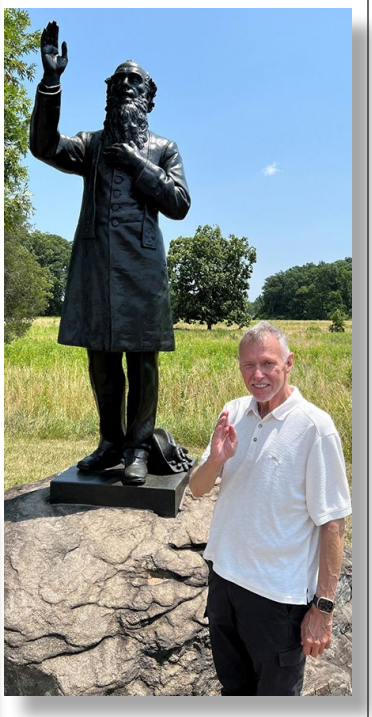


9. Father Corby statue at Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana

In 1911 Artist Samuel Murray made a duplicate statue of Chaplain William Corby to be dedicated on the campus of Notre Dame. Corby was President there soon after the Civil War. For years I was giving people "homework" to find out if that statue was on a Gettysburg rock. This past July I finally got the answer when Father William McEvoy of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas sent me The Notre Dame Scholastic of June 1911. Rev. Thomas W. Hayes of St. Francis Xavier parish in Gettysburg worked with the Park Commissioners to have a boulder from the battlefield sent out to the college for Chaplain Corby to stand on to give conditional absolution.







NPS Winter Lecture Series 2025

Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 p.m.
January 4 through February 23, 2025

Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center

https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/gettysburg-winter-programs.htm

Featuring some of the best Rangers, historians, and authors from across the country, this popular eight-week Winter Lecture Series will once again return to the Gettysburg National Military Park (NMP) Museum and Visitor Center in 2025!

The Winter Lecture Series is held at 1:30 p.m. on weekends in the Gettysburg NMP Museum and Visitor Center from January 4 through February 23, 2025. Seating is available on a first come – first serve basis. Free tickets are available day of at the Gettysburg NMP Museum and Visitor Center. Schedule is subject to change.

Thanks to the Gettysburg Foundation, all presentations will be recorded and made available on the Gettysburg Foundation YouTube channel at Gettysburg Foundation - YouTube.

No live stream will be available.

SATURDAY JANUARY 4 - AMBROSE POWELL HILL – THE ENDURING MYSTERY OF LEE'S ENIGMATIC CORPS COMMANDER

Matt Atkinson, Gettysburg National Military Park

From wearing a red battle shirt in combat to being placed under arrest during the Maryland Campaign in September 1862, "Little Powell" remains simultaneously well-known and enigmatic. Who was this subordinate that both "Stonewall" Jackson and Robert E. Lee called to on their deathbeds? Explore the remarkable life, personality, and command decisions of Ambrose Powell Hill, Lee's mysterious general.

SUNDAY JANUARY 5 – "ACTING AS AN AGENT FOR GOVERNOR CURTIN" – DAVID WILLS AND THE CREATION OF THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Dan Welch, Gettysburg National Military Park

More than any other, Gettysburg citizen and prominent lawyer David Wills ensured that the Union soldiers who gave their last full measure of devotion had a final and fitting rest place. From its conception in July 1863 until the dedication of the Soldiers' National Monument in July 1869, Wills worked tirelessly on the cemetery project, including the proposition of holding a dedication ceremony and supplying President Abraham Lincoln a quiet room to finish his "few appropriate remarks." Discover Wills' important work in the creation of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg.

SATURDAY JANUARY 11 – THE PIPE CREEK LINE: MEADE PREPARES FOR BATTLE

Chris Army, Licensed Battlefield Guide, Gettysburg National Military Park

Appointed to command the Army of the Potomac late during the unfolding campaign, General George G. Meade worked diligently and tirelessly

see LECTURES cont. on pg. 6

NPS Winter Lecture Series 2025 cont.

LECTURES continued from page 5

to develop plans for his army. One such plan was the Pipe Creek Line. Examine the various planning activities that were involved in creating the Pipe Creek defensive line and evaluate why it became so important—or maybe it wasn't—during this program.

SUNDAY JANUARY 12 – BUCKEYES AT GETTYSBURG

Wayne Motts, Gettysburg Foundation

The state of Ohio contributed significantly to the Union war effort during the American Civil War. At Gettysburg, some 4,400 Ohioans fought in the Union army during the three-day battle, while some Confederate soldiers in Lee's army had connections to the Buckeye state. Join historian, author, licensed guide, and president Emeritus and Historian of the Gettysburg Foundation Wayne E. Motts as he explores some unique stories of Ohio during the battle.

SATURDAY JANUARY 18 – THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE - HALLOWED GROUND ON A VAST SCALE

Philip Brown, Eisenhower National Historic Site

In 1945 Walter Cronkite and Robert Musel referred to the Battle of the Bulge as a "Germany Gettysburg- representing the high tide of the enemy's ability to wage offensive war…." Their words proved to be true. The grueling fighting took place during some of the harshest weather conditions Europe had to offer and witnessed the last major push the Germans mustered in the Second World War. What legacy did the battle leave behind? How is the ground upon which it was fought preserved? What does this story tell us about preserving places like Gettysburg? Join Ranger Philip Brown as we explore each of these questions.

SUNDAY JANUARY 19 – PRINCIPLES OF CIVIL WAR ARTILLERY

Tom Holbrook, Gettysburg National Military Park

Jennings Cropper Wise, in his authoritative work on Confederate artillery in Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, referred to this branch of service as "The Long Arm of Lee." Some of war's most dramatic moments, Malvern Hill, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg, are remembered for the devastating use of these guns. Yet, the role that field artillery played in the American Civil War is often underestimated by modern historians. This program will discuss the principles relating to the art of field artillery as put forth by famed artillerists Henry Hunt, William Barry, and John Gibbon.

SATURDAY JANUARY 25 - DROPPING DIMES-HOLDING BRITAIN ACCOUNTABLE FOR ENABLING CONFEDERATE COMMERCE RAIDERS DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

John Fitzpatrick, Licensed Battlefield Guide, Gettysburg National Military Park

Ostensibly a "neutral" country during the American Civil War, Great Britain enabled the Confederate Navy to build eight state-of-the-art ocean-going commerce raiders. Those vessels preyed upon U.S. and Neutral-flagged vessels in international waters throughout the entire American Civil War. How did determined United States diplomats through three presidential administrations ultimately demand either war or actual damages—compensable accountability and liability—from Great Britain? Find out during this gripping narrative on the high seas.

SUNDAY JANUARY 26 – WHAT ABOUT WOFFORD? - THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE ARTILLERY IMPACT DOCUMENTED AT THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

Laura Elliot, Historian

In 1878, fifteen years after the Battle of Gettysburg, Major General Lafayette McLaws lamented, "One company…had, by the bursting of a shell in its front as it went into the charge, lost thirty men…." Even a decade and a half after that moment on July 2, 1863, the aging general never knew that savage shell was the single most destructive artillery impact of the entire battle. Failing to identify which regiment that devastated company belonged, or brigade for that matter, nearly 150 years after writing of this episode of war, the mystery has finally been solved.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1 – A TALK WITH FREDERICK DOUGLAS AND JOHN BROWN

The Lincoln Cemetery Association in partnership with Gettysburg National Military Park

Historian, poet, and living historian Nathan Richardson will bring Frederick Douglass to life. Along with Greencastle, Pennsylvania native Doug Dobbs, who will rekindle abolitionist John Brown, these two performers will deliver an inspiring and engaging performance that will bring the tumultuous events leading up to the Civil War to life.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2 – HE IS SO SLOW: RECTIFYING THE LONGSTREET MYTHS AT GETTYSBURG

Karlton Smith and Dan Welch, Gettysburg National Military Park

Lieutenant General James Longstreet has been accused of both personal and professional iniquities concerning his performance at the Battle of Gettysburg. The accusations are firmly entrenched in the mythology of the battle. These personal and professional "failures" at Gettysburg, however, were actually generalship traits which showed themselves on other battlefields. Rectify the wrongs of the Longstreet mythology at Gettysburg through the lens of his leadership on other battlefields from Blackburn's Ford to the Wilderness.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8 – HEARTH, HARDTACK, AND HOSPITAL: A CLOSER LOOK AT CIVIL WAR ERA FOOD

Barbara Sanders, Gettysburg National Military Park

Food is a highly experiential element of history that connects us with people and places of the past, while at the same time demonstrating the universality of the human experience. Learn about home cooking in the mid-19th century and how it compared to the typical campaign ration of a Civil War soldier. Then explore the important work of nourishment provided by the United States Sanitary Commission after battles, and the prescriptive cooking at Civil War hospitals such as Gettysburg's Camp Letterman.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9 – "YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW I AM GOING TO BE BEATEN, BUT I DO AND UNLESS SOME GREAT CHANGE TAKES PLACE BEATEN BADLY!"— ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE ELECTION OF 1864

John Nicholas, Gettysburg National Military Park

The 1864 Presidential election may have been the most contentious, and at the same time the most crucial, election in American history. The war was going badly with no end in sight, there were doubts that Abraham Lincoln would even be nominated, much less reelected. Even his own party believed he would lose reelection. How did Lincoln beat the odds? Find out during this exciting program!