

Photo by John Armstrong

THE ASSOCIATION OF LICENSED BATTLEFIELD GUIDES®
GETTYSBURG, PA

Battlefield Dispatch

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"This was one of the consequences of the civil war. People stopped trusting each other, and every stranger became an enemy. Even people who knew you became extremely careful about how they related or spoke to you." – Ishmael Beah



The Association of
Licensed Battlefield
Guides®
717 • 337 • 1709

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.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT NEWS FROM • FOR • AND ABOUT YOUR ASSOCIATION

Contributed by LBG Phil Muskett, ALBG President

The month of May has ended and bus season is mostly over. A few school groups are still on the books. Black Friday was not as black as previous years, Black Friday eve was actually busier, close to 95 buses. Once again, we did the job, showing everyone that we are truly the best guide force in the country. Bravo Zulu everyone!

WE HAD A SUCCESSFUL SCHOLARS BANQUET ON APRIL 25. Dr. Pula's talk on General Dan Butterfield was a hit. Many individuals leaving the event told me they had a new respect for General Butterfield. Kudos to LBG Bill Thomas for organizing and directing.

WE HAD OUR ANNUAL SPRING MEETING AT THE VISITOR CENTER ON APRIL 24. The Gettysburg Foundation was added back into our meetings. Approximately 30 guides were in attendance, in person, with many more online via Teams.

THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 25 WAS ALSO THE GETTYSBURG FOUNDATION SPRING MUSTER. This event was also successful with Guides leading battle walks and lectures to assist our Foundation partners. Thank

you to Wayne Motts, Darryl Roberts, Chris Bagley, Rob Abbott, Billy Griffith, Jasan Hileman, Ralph Siegel, Chuck Burkell for participating in the event.

Lots of opportunities for Guides this summer.

RANGER CHRIS GWINN RECENTLY SENT OUT AN EMAIL FOR GUIDES TO HELP WITH ANNIVERSARY WALKS.

Approximately 30 guides stepped up to participate before the deadline.

OUR EVENING WALKS IN THE CEMETERY ARE IN FULL SWING.

This event is in conjunction with the Lincoln Fellowship. This year the Lincoln Fellowship will be holding their "Taps" ceremony at the Pennsylvania monument. Thank you to those who

have already signed up to participate in these events.

I AM EXCITED ABOUT A NEW STANDING COMMITTEE THAT WAS RECENTLY CREATED BY ALBG. "Donations and Charitable Actions". We are soliciting from the ALBG membership, organizations to donate money. This can be a national organization, or a local agency. If you have an idea or questions, reach out to Paul Bailey.

If you recently took a trip or got a new book, write up a short article or review to share with us. Then submit it to Therese Orr for inclusion in the Dispatch.

Everyone remember why we guide and be grateful we are able to do what we love. 🎉

Road Clean-up Dates for 2025

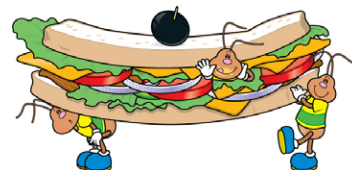
The 2025 Emmitsburg Road trash pickup dates will take place on the following Wednesdays at 5:00 PM:

- June 25
- August 20
- October 1

Meet at the 105PA monument. 🎉



Annual Picnic July 25th



Carroll Valley Park

There will be more information coming soon on this.

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(Two-year term 2024-2025)
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Don't forget to like
ALBG on Facebook!

Unraveling the mystery: the Licensed Driver Gettysburg N.P. badge

First appeared in Dispatch, December 2015. Contributed by LBG Doug Redding. —Ed.

After the business portion of the November ALBG meeting, Associate member Bob Velke gave a presentation about his collection of Civil War veteran badges. In keeping with that theme, and before Bob began to speak, Steve Slaughter showed us a photo of what he said was the only badge in his collection - a silver colored badge marked simply "Licensed Driver Gettysburg N.P." A photo of a Licensed Driver badge in my collection accompanies this article. The badge is roughly two inches square in size. Steve's photo of this rare badge sparked a question from the gathering as to when and why licensed drivers were ever used in the park. No one had an answer to the question. I had read something in the rather distant past about licensed drivers, but couldn't recall the details or the source. After the meeting I suggested to Dave Joswick that I do a write-up for the Dispatch to answer the licensed driver question, assuming I could locate the info I had read years ago. I encountered some false starts as I looked through various materials in vain. I finally recalled that the info I had read was in LBG Fred Hawthorne's detailed and very interesting history of the licensed guide force, "A Peculiar Institution - The History of the Licensed Battlefield Guides," published in 1990. I had saved a copy of Fred's history from when it was serialized in issues of the Dispatch in the mid-1990s.

The Licensed Driver info appears in chapters Three and Four. As we know, guides were first licensed in 1915. This resulted from a Congressional bill, initially drafted by the War Department in 1913, that formed the basis for subsequent guide regulations. Section 2



of the bill said "No person or persons shall be permitted to offer their services as or to act as guides, **operate vehicles for transportation of passengers for hire** (emphasis added), or conduct a private business, in or upon any National Military Park, Memorial Battlefield, or National Monument unless duly licensed under rules and regulations thereof ..."

Interestingly, Fred pointed out that "Although the regulation, as written, applied to all War Department-controlled parks, it appears that only Gettysburg took an active interest in it." As the first guide tests were being administered in September 1915, Colonel John P. Nicholson began to take steps to enforce the initial licensed guide regulation. The September 30 issue of the Gettysburg Times included an announcement that "No driver of car or wagon acting as a guide will be permitted to use the avenues of the park." This announcement was fine as far as it went. However, it created a loophole since it did not preclude an unlicensed person from hauling visitors on the field for a fee if that person made no effort to act as a guide. This was an important issue to the War Department and administrators of the GNMP at a time when many visitors did not travel to Gettysburg in their own car

or carriage. The loophole was closed during the summer of 1916 when the Secretary of War issued an additional regulation. This regulation stated that no one could "... run a vehicle of any kind carrying a person or persons for pay on or over the roads, avenues, etc. within the limits of the Gettysburg National Military Park unless accompanied by a licensed guide or driven by a licensed driver." Thus the Licensed Driver classification had been created. The first group of Licensed Drivers was soon established, comprised of 47 men, many of whom had failed the guide exam.

In spite of the regulations, everything did not always function smoothly. In the summer of 1917, licensed driver William Yingling was fined \$10.50 for acting as a guide while only holding a license to operate as a

driver. In June of 1926, licensed driver Charles E. Weikert was caught and fined for giving out business cards that advertised his services as a licensed guide. Weikert appealed his conviction, and his conviction was ultimately overturned. I will not attempt here to relate the basis for the appeal and reversal of Weikert's conviction. Fred writes in his guide history that "In response to the problem brought about by the Weikert case, (GNMP superintendent Col. E.E.) Davis issued the first of many 'circulars' to guides clearly specifying and interpreting the regulations in regard to guides and drivers. A guide, he stated, was not permitted to operate cars or busses and could not do so even if the owner of the vehicle requested the service.

[see BADGE cont. on page 6](#)

Continuing Education

PROGRAMS SET FOR 2025

LBG Bill Thomas, Education Chair

Many thanks to Chris Brenneman for an excellent presentation and behind the scenes look at the Cyclorama painting at the March Continuing Education Program. Further Continuing Education Programs for 2025 are as follows:

JUNE 20 - Rob Abbott presents "The Army of the Potomac 1864 Reorganization: What Happened and Why We Should Care"

AUGUST 15 - Jessie Wheedleton presents "Human Interest Stories of the Artillery"

NOVEMBER 14 - Gary Vezza presents "The Flying Nuns at Gettysburg"

The **June and August programs** will be held at the Gettysburg Heritage Center at 5:30. The location for the **November program** is to be announced and the time will be 5:00.

THE FALL SEMINAR FOR 2025 will be on September 26, 27 & 28 and focus on Culp's Hill.

Details are available on the ALBG website. Registration is now open on our website, and some seats have already been sold.

The price is \$235, the same as last year. Associate Members can purchase a seat for \$115 by following the special instructions Jessie Wheedleton sent to each of them. 🍷

SUMMER 2025 BATTLEFIELD WALK SCHEDULE

The following is a list of the Tuesday evening Battlefield Walks for 2025. All programs begin at 5:00 p.m. Please check the ALBG website for further details.

3 June 2025: Captain Augustus Martin's Artillery US V Corp July 2, 1863 - LBG Mike Rupert

Meeting place: Near Hazlett's Battery monument on Little Round Top.

10 June 2025: The Philadelphia Brigade - LBG Mary Turk-Meena

Meeting Place: General Webb monument on Hancock Ave.

17 June 2025: The Defense of Culp's Hill – The Other Guys - LBG Stuart R. Dempsey

Meeting Place: Meet at the foot of the Culp's Hill observation tower.

24 June 2025: "Critters in the Ranks" regimental mascots. - LBG Tim Pierce

Meeting Place: Oak Ridge at the 11 PA monument.

8 July 2025: Kershaw's Brigade and the Spot Where the South Lost the War - LBG Ralph Siegel

Meeting Place: South Carolina memorial on West Confederate Avenue.

15 July 2025: The Gibraltar Brigade at East Cemetery Hill - LBG Chuck Rebesco

Meeting Place: At the National Cemetery parking lot on Taneytown Road.

22 July 2025: Maj Gen Henry Slocum, USA "I'll be damned if I take responsibility for this fight." - LBG Rob Abbott

Meeting Place: Daniel Lady Farm parking lot.

29 July 2025: The 17th Maine in the Wheatfield - LBG Bill Release

Meeting Place: 148th Pennsylvania monument on Ayres Avenue.

5 August 2025: The US Provost Marshall General, duties of the provost guard including prisoners and the Bureau of Military Information. - LBG Joe Mieczkowski

Meeting Place: Meade's HQ,

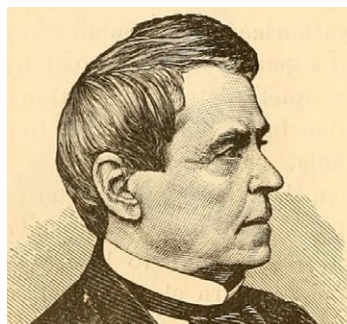
12 August 2025: The Mystery of Lt. Gen. Ambrose Powell Hill, CSA - LBG Rob Abbott

Meeting Place: West End Guide Station.

19 August 2025: "... they will come booming": John Buford's Masterful Defense on July 1, 1863 - LBG Therese Orr
Meeting Place: Seminary Ridge Museum. (NOTE: this "walk" will include driving to various locations on the first day's battlefield)

26 August 2025: The Florida Brigade - LBG Bill Thomas

Meeting Place: Perry's brigade Tablet on West Confederate Ave. 🇺🇸



James Pollock

Penny for your thoughts

In his one term in congress, Lincoln struck up a friendship with James Pollock from central Pennsylvania. Both Lincoln and Pollock were opposed to the Mexican War but knew that

a negative vote could abort their political careers. They both decided to vote no.

Pollock was defeated in his reelection and Lincoln did not run.

In 1862 President Lincoln appointed Pollock as Director of the Philadelphia mint. While leading the United States Mint, he was instructed by the Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase in a letter to come up with suggestions for including "the trust of our people in God" in a motto on America's coins. Pollock proposed a number of mottos, including "Our Trust Is In God" and "God Our Trust," which was ultimately revised to "In God We Trust".

The 1864 two-cent piece was the first coin with the approved motto and today all American coins are inscribed with "In God We Trust." 🇺🇸

In the Lincoln-Douglas debates, Stephen A. Douglas accused Abraham Lincoln of being two-faced.

"I leave it to you, my friends," Lincoln retorted, turning toward the audience. "If I had two faces, would I be wearing this one?" 🇺🇸

WE WANT YOU ...

Calling all ALBG members – both Licensed and Associate. We want your book reviews and articles of interest for the Dispatch. Have a favorite soldier or regiment? Visit a cemetery or battlefield? Read a good – or not so good – book? Share your interests or experiences with our members. Send your input to Therese Orr, orr1978@gmail.com, for inclusion in future issues of the Dispatch. 🇺🇸

ANNIVERSARY BATTLE WALKS & SACRED TRUST LECTURES

July 1: Battle Walks

These special 2-to-3-hour programs explore key episodes and phases of the battle and involve significant hiking and walking, occasionally over rough terrain. Water, headgear, sun protection, insect repellent, and comfortable, sturdy walking shoes are highly recommended.

10:00 AM "Last To Leave The Field:" General John Robinson's Division on July 1

No Union division suffered a higher percentage casualty rate during the Battle of Gettysburg than Robinson's division of the First Army Corps. As Robinson later summarized his division's actions, "For nearly four hours on July 1 we were hotly engaged against overwhelming numbers, repulsed repeated attacks. . . and were last to leave the field. "Join a Park Ranger for a two-hour Battle Walk that will attempt to make sense out of the oftentimes confusing and chaotic combat on Oak Ridge between Robinson's Union division and that of Confederate General Robert Rodes.

Meet at Eternal Light Peace Memorial, Auto Tour Stop 2. Park along Buford and North Confederate Avenue.

2:00 PM Courage on Trial: The Eleventh Corps on July 1, 1863

Join a Park Ranger for this two-hour battle walk that will reexamine one of the most misunderstood Union commands at Gettysburg. Walk the ground from Barlow's Knoll to the Mummasburg Road, where the Eleventh Corps faced overwhelming odds, and engendered a legacy of blame. Through first-hand accounts, this program challenges long-held assumptions and asks: What does courage look like when history calls it failure?

Meet at Barlow Knoll, East Howard Avenue. Park along East Howard Avenue.

6:00 PM Twilight on Cemetery Hill

Following their defeat north and west of town, Union soldiers of the First and Eleventh Corps rallied on Cemetery Hill. Why was this location chosen and by whom? At the same time, Confederate commander Robert E. Lee looked to press his victory even further against this new Union position. What were his considerations and why did it not occur? Bring a lawn chair and join a panel of Park Rangers as they close the narrative of July 1 and tackle some of day's lingering controversies.

Meet at the Speaker's Rostrum inside the Solders' National Cemetery. Park at the National Cemetery parking lot, or overflow lots on Taneytown Road and Hunt Avenue.

Sacred Trust Lecture Series

Over the three days of the battle anniversary prominent historians and speakers will present hour-long presentations, offering

unique perspectives on the events 162 years ago. Held nightly at 7:00 p.m. at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Free tickets required in advance.

Please visit <https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/exhibits-tours-events/sacred-trust> for more information on tickets.

John Banks - "A Civil War Road Trip of a Lifetime"

July 2: Battle Walks

These special 2- to 3-hour programs explore key episodes and phases of the battle and involve significant hiking and walking, occasionally over rough terrain. Water, headgear, sun protection, insect repellent and comfortable, sturdy walking shoes are highly recommended.

10:00 AM The Redemption of the Harper's Ferry Cowards

Forced to surrender at Harper's Ferry months earlier, these four New York regiments had much to fight for. Hereafter branded as "the Harper's Ferry Cowards," they were pulled from their post parole duty in the Washington Defenses and added to the Army of the Potomac during the Gettysburg campaign. One Union officer wrote that when the brigade finally saw battle, to look out for blood. Now, on July 2, the brigade will have a chance to prove their bravery and fighting ability.

Meet at Brian Farm. Park along Hancock Avenue.

2:00 PM Hiram Berdan and the 2nd US Sharpshooters

Recruited by Hiram Berdan under the auspices of the War Department, the eight companies of the 2nd US Sharpshooters Regiment contained some of the top marksmen from six different Union states. On July 2, 1863, these hand-picked men played a pivotal role in stretching the Confederate line to the breaking point. Join a Park Ranger for a program focusing on this elite Union Army sharpshooter unit, their progenitor, Berdan, and their stand against Longstreet's July 2 assault.

Meet at the Bushman Farm. Park along South Confederate Avenue.

6:00 PM "Is that not a magnificent sight?" - The 69th New York Storms the Wheatfield

So remarked a Confederate officer of the appearance of the famed Irish Brigade and 69th New York Infantry opposite his position that July afternoon. Learn about the men who filled this decimated regiment's ranks, relive their dramatic battlefield Absolution, and follow in their footsteps into the bloody Wheatfield during this experiential program. Join a

ANNIVERSARY BATTLE WALKS *cont. from page 4*

Park Ranger and The Liberty Rifles living history organization as they recreate the sights and sounds of this famous unit and their actions on July 2, 1863.

Meet at the Pennsylvania Memorial, Auto Tour Stop 12. Park along Sedgwick & Hancock Avenue.

Sacred Trust Lecture Series

Over the three days of the battle anniversary prominent historians and speakers will present hour-long presentations, offering unique perspectives on the events 162 years ago. Held nightly at 7:00 p.m. at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Free tickets required in advance.

Please visit <https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/exhibits-tours-events/sacred-trust> for more information on tickets.

William Marvel - "The Confederate Spirit after Gettysburg"

July 3: Battle Walks

These special 2- to 3-hour programs explore key episodes and phases of the battle and involve significant hiking and walking, occasionally over rough terrain. Water, headgear, sun protection, insect repellent and comfortable, sturdy walking shoes are highly recommended.

10:00 AM "To advance was impossible...to remain was simply madness."

Despite the duration of combat and number of soldiers fighting there, the battle for Culp's Hill has been overshadowed by Pickett's Charge later in the afternoon. Find out the crucial role these hills played in the events of July 3, 1863, and why it is not better remembered today. Join a Park Ranger to discover the story of the longest continual combat at Gettysburg and the site of the battle's most casualties.

Meet at the Culp's Hill Observation Tower. Park along Slocum Avenue.

2:00 PM Pickett's Charge Hike

Join Licensed Battlefield Guide Rob Abbott for a compelling walk across the fields of Pickett's Charge. Experience the pivotal moment of July 3, 1863, brought vividly to life by following the footsteps of those who participated in the assault 162 years ago. This immersive hike will offer a deeper understanding of the sacrifice and motivations behind one of the turning points of the Civil War.

Meet at the Virginia Memorial, Auto Tour Stop 5. Park along West Confederate Avenue.

6:00 PM Gettysburg's Aftermath, Legacy, and Meaning

As fighting closed on July 3, 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg left a changed world. Join a park ranger for this evening Battle Walk looking at the impact of the battle on those who experienced it firsthand — the wounded, the families who lived here, those who buried and mourned the dead,

and the nation that remembered them.

Meet at the Pennsylvania Memorial, Auto Tour Stop 12. Park along Sedgwick & Hancock Avenue.

Sacred Trust Lecture Series

Please visit <https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/exhibits-tours-events/sacred-trust> for more information on tickets.

Lesly J. Gordon - "Dread Danger: Cowardice and Combat in the American Civil War"

July 5: Sacred Trust Lecture Series

Please visit <https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/exhibits-tours-events/sacred-trust> for more information on tickets.

Jon M. Nese and Jeffrey J. Harding - "The Weather Gods Curse the Gettysburg Campaign"

July 6: Sacred Trust Lecture Series

Please visit <https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/exhibits-tours-events/sacred-trust> for more information on tickets.

Barbara Franco - "Gettysburg Surgeons: Facing a Common Enemy" 🎨

The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearth-stone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

— Abraham Lincoln, First Inaugural Address,
March 4, 1861



FROM THE LIBRARY

Contributed by LBG Mike Strong, Librarian

A reminder: the library is accessible to ALBG Licensed members 24/7. Please use the sign-out log when borrowing materials, and if visiting during the Diorama's off-hours, please make sure the outer door is locked when departing. Thank you. 🎨

“The Other Flank - Culp’s Hill”

September 26th, 27th, and 28th, 2025

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides

Welcome to six deep dive field programs on Culp’s Hill! The focus of the 2025 seminar will move from last year’s look at the Union left flank to the pointy end of the fish-hook on the Union right.

Cost is \$235 with a \$20 rebate given to ALBG Associate Members.

Friday: Buffet Dinner at the Dobbin House with a presentation by LBG Bruce Rice setting the stage for the battle action to follow.

Saturday and Sunday TOURS with buses provided:

- Wadsworth’s Division & Signalmen – LBG Eric Lindblade;
- Greene’s Defense of the Union Right on July 2 – LBG Bill Trelease;
- Candy’s & Shaler’s Brigades – LBG Charlie Fennell;
- Steuart’s Brigade – LBG Steve Slaughter;
- “What Mean These Stones” – LBG Rich Goedkoop;
- Spangler Meadow Fight, Morning of July 3 – LBG Therese Orr

Saturday Evening: Cigar Firepit returns to the Rupp House hosted by LBG Les Fowler

Snacks and drinks will be provided, including lunch on Saturday

Lodging: *The 1863 Inn* is once again offering a limited number of rooms for attendees at 18% below their usual weekend rate – Call 717-334-6211 and mention the ALBG Annual Seminar!

The website link is <https://gettysburgtourguides.org/albgseminar/> 📄



BADGE cont. from page 2

Licensed drivers were to confine their activities to operating their own vehicles without performing the functions of a guide.” Fred’s history later states that in “Supervisor of Guides [William] Storrick’s report on guiding to the Quartermaster General in October of 1926, he had mentioned the friction that obviously existed between guides and drivers. This memo gives the first clear idea of the concept of a Licensed Driver. These individuals were licensed specifically to operate their own vehicle over the field carrying tourists who did not desire the services of a guide.

“They were specifically forbidden to give a description of the strategical and tactical movements of the armies.

Guides complained that drivers were not using their own cars, but simply entered the visitor’s. LBG’s concluded that when they did this, they became a guide. It is apparent that the Weikert case was a result of Davis’ belief in the validity of the guides’ claim.”

Fred continued, “Storrick also reported that many guides also owned their own cars and some were taking tourists about in these creating a problem of acting in a dual capacity. ‘Guiding,’ [Storrick] stated, ‘... has reached such large proportion in the last few years owing to the increased amount of traffic from all sections and has changed the conditions from what they were formerly.’ Davis attempted to define the differences between the two but eventually phased

out the classification of driver.” Licensed drivers continued to function at least through 1928 by which time most visitors arrived in Gettysburg in private automobiles. I don’t know the total number of persons who served as licensed drivers during the 10+ years they operated on the field.

Presumably the number was more than the initial 47 who were granted the license. The badge in my collection has the number 51 engraved on the back. On my “To Do” list is to attempt to locate records by which I can identify whose badge I have. Thanks to Fred for allowing me to quote from his guide history. 📄

SCURVY

After a scurvy outbreak among Union troops during the Peninsula campaign of 1862, the public became aware of the disease and the general problem of proper nutrition in the armies. Civilian groups began organizing event and food drives to support troops at the front. The primary focus of these efforts was to collect potatoes and onions, both moderate suppliers of vitamin C. At this point, **citrus** was known to be the best source of vitamin C, but oranges, lemons, and limes spoiled too quickly. These civilian groups would collect potatoes and onions door to door, or would hold special benefit events in which a potato or onion was the fee for entry. The groups would conduct informational campaigns by placing signs encouraging loved ones to send additional food to the troops. For example, one sign posted in Chicago read “**Don’t send your sweetheart a love-letter. Send him an onion.**” 📄