

Battlefield Dispatch

Vol. 43 No. 4

August 2025

"Shall some trans-Atlantic military giant step the earth and crush us at a blow? ...No, if destruction be our lot we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men we will live forever or die by suicide." – Abraham Lincoln

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

Contributed by LBG Phil
Muskett, ALBG President

REPORT
Welcome to the hot steamy days of August. We have survived bus season, the anniversary and bike week. Now we start looking for Fall and part two of the year.

WELCOME ABOARD

Congratulations to those who have passed their oral exams. Jeff Becker, Eric Burroughs, Eric Krotz, Dr. Judy Morley, Rik Scarce and Adam Wheeler. Welcome to the Guide Room. If you see them about, shake their hand and welcome them aboard.

ANNUAL PICNIC

On July 25, we had our Annual Guide Picnic at Carroll Valley Park. We had about 35 or so Guides and Associate members present. It was a good evening of fellowship and a tough "Who Said it?" trivia. Deb Novotny did an excellent job selecting the quotes. Mike Rupert, once again, did an amazing job on the picnic, going above and beyond to make this happen. If you see Mike thank him for his hard work. Steve Slaughter played music on his fife to add to the atmosphere, even played the Marine Corps hymn. No "Anchors Aweigh" though.

Thanks to all who helped with set up and cleaning up afterward.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to serve on the Executive Council next year. We have many open positions. Those positions are President, Secretary, Treasurer, and member At Large. The President, Secretary, and Treasurer are one-year terms. The At Large member is two years. We also need someone to chair the Fall Seminar in 2026. If you have the time, please consider helping out with the organization. And if you can't run, we have many volunteer opportunities available to help us with the Executive Council. We are working hard on the Fall Seminar, Annual Visiting Scholars dinner, and the Honors Banquet honoring those with 40 years or more of Service. These things don't happen out of thin air.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

If you visit somewhere historical, discover something that will improve all the Guides' programs, share that here in the Dispatch. Articles are always needed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our next General Meeting is on August 15th at 5:30. This meeting will be held

at the Gettysburg Heritage Center Conference room. Jessie Wheelton will be giving a Continuing Education lecture titled "Human Interest Stories of the Artillery." Associate members are invited to attend.

Editor's Note:

The article on page 2 of the June Dispatch titled *Unraveling the Mystery: the Licensed Driver Gettysburg N.P. Badge* was picked up from 2015 and should have been credited to Doug Redding. Also the name of Bob Velke was spelled incorrectly. My deepest apologizes to Doug and the ALBG for this error. The article has been corrected in the archives of the June 2025 issue and the December 2015 issue.

Road Clean-up Dates for 2025

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

- August 20
- October 1

Meet at the 105PA monument.



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.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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(Two-year term 2024-2025)
Bill Thomas • Mike Rupert
• Jess Wheelton

AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBER

(Two-year term - 2025-2026)
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Don't forget to like
ALBG on Facebook!

MEET THE NEW LICENSED BATTLEFIELD GUIDES



ADAM WHEELER

I grew up and still live about an hour away from Gettysburg in Red Lion PA. My full-time job is in landscaping. My interest in guiding started with taking my cousin on trips to Gettysburg and other battlefields. Those were always the best days of the summer and I wanted to be able to do that as a career. It's an honor to now be a part of the guide force.



ERIC BURROUGHS

I am a Baltimore City firefighter from Timonium, Maryland. While firefighting is my profession, history has always been my passion. I became a guide because I love talking about the Civil War with people.

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 with six deep dive field programs on Culp's Hill!

Join us Sept. 26 27 & 28 for The Other Flank - Culp's Hill.

The website link is

<https://gettysburgtourguides.org/albgseminar/>



JEFF BECKER

I joined the Navy at 17 years old, after HS graduation, and completed 4 years of service. Finished as a Petty Officer 2nd class Aviation Electronics Technician.

I used the G.I. Bill and attended the School of Computer Technology in Pittsburgh. Shortly afterward I began my 40-year IT career as a Computer Programmer, Systems Programmer, Project Leader and eventually my last 20 years as an Oracle Database Administrator.

My interest in History and the Civil War began at an early age when an older cousin gifted me his blue and gray soldiers collection. I was fascinated! I always did well in History and Math during my school years.

Ten years ago, I started watching the PCN shows covering the Battle of Gettysburg and was hooked. I then started buying books, The Killer Angels, Coddington, etc. That was followed by dozens of trips to the battlefield and tours with LBGs and NPS Rangers. 7 years ago, I decided to commit myself to earning the Badge and finally succeeded in June.

I'm honored to join such an outstanding group of LBGs devoted to the history of the Civil War and the Battle of Gettysburg.



RIK SCARCE

I'm a native North Carolinian and have lived in other states from Washington to Virginia, Florida to Hawaii, and several in between. I'm now in my final semester as a sociology professor at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York, where I began teaching in 2003. Previously, I taught at Michigan State and Montana State.

On a trip with my wife, Wendy, in 2021 I saw a Guide-related sign in the Visitor Center and immediately knew guiding was what I wanted to do in retirement. Soon after, I dove into the first true history I ever read on the battle, Coddington, and I was hooked. For as long as I can remember, the Civil War fascinated me, and the process of becoming a Guide prompted me to finally and seriously explore that interest. That side of the journey alone made it all worthwhile.

Since leading my first tour in June, I've given more than sixty. As stressful as the examination process was, guiding has been incredibly fulfilling. Thank you to all the LBGs, Foundation employees, and NPS folks who have gone out of their way to make me feel welcome! 🇺🇸

Coffee with a Historian

Gettysburg Foundation invites you to experience history come alive at the Gettysburg Lincoln Railroad Station through its *Coffee with a Historian* summer series. These engaging sessions take place on select Sundays from 9 to 10 a.m. under the covered pavilion at 35 Carlisle Street.

Enjoy complimentary coffee and tea while exploring Gettysburg's pivotal stories, rich history and answers to your history-related questions. Guests are encouraged to learn, engage, ask questions and join the conversation. Seating is limited and ticket reservations are required.

Remaining Coffee with a Historian Summer Lineup:

- Aug. 10 – LBG Joe Mieczkowski (Lincoln & His Cabinet and Jefferson Davis & His Cabinet)
- Sept. 21 – LBG Lewis Trott 🇺🇸

More of the Battlefield Preserved Forever

On July 1st, LBG Garry Adelman with American Battlefield Trust announced the purchase of the remaining land of the old Katalysine Springs hotel / golf course & country club. We look forward to working with ABT to restore and interpret that part of the Day 1 battlefield. 🇺🇸

Hemingway and Faulkner in the Civil War

Two of America's 20th-century literary giants were the descendants of distinguished Civil War veterans: Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner. Here are some of their stories.

Ernest Hemingway

Born in 1899, Ernest Hemingway is acclaimed for a long list of literary classics, including *A Farewell to Arms*, *The Sun Also Rises*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and *The Old Man and the Sea*. His first connection to the Civil War was through his paternal grandfather, Anson Tyler Hemingway, who enlisted as a private in Company D of the 72nd Illinois Infantry on July 28, 1862. He served with the regiment at several engagements, including the Siege of Vicksburg (May 17 to July 4, 1863).

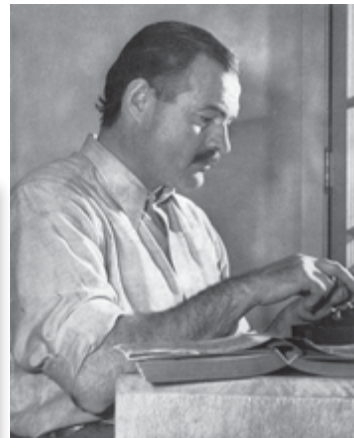


Ernest Hemingway also served in the military, as an ambulance driver during World War I. | public domain

After mustering out of the service, Private Hemingway later joined the 70th U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) as 1st Lieutenant. Organized at Natchez, Mississippi, in 1864, the 70th was one of 175 USCT regiments that

were formed in response to the demand of Union Army commanders for more fighting units. Approximately 20 percent of USCT soldiers lost their lives due to the war—a rate about 35 percent higher than white Union troops—and many demonstrated bravery, including 16 who received the Congressional Medical of Honor.

Ernest Hemingway had another connection to the Civil War. His maternal grandfather, Ernest Hall, also was a Union veteran. Enlisting in the First Iowa Cavalry at the beginning of the war, he was mustered out less than a year later after a Confederate Minie ball became permanently lodged in his thigh.



Ernest Hemingway works on *For Whom the Bell Tolls* in 1939, at the Sun Valley Lodge. | public domain

William Faulkner

Among Hemingway's few peers as a 20th-century author was William Faulkner. Born in 1897, he was called by literary critic Ralph Ellison the "greatest artist the South has ever produced." Much of Faulkner's work was set in the fictional Yoknapatawpha County of Mississippi. In 1929, he published *The Sound and the Fury* and *As I Lay Dying* the next year, followed by *Light* in

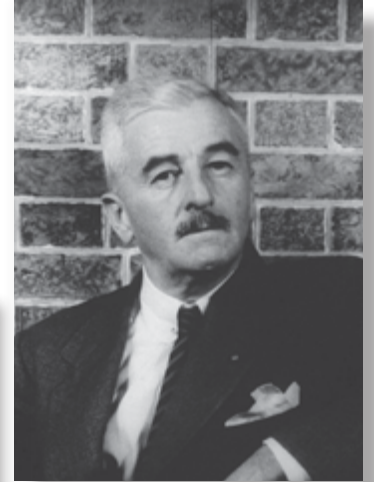
August, *The Wild Palms*, and *Absalom, Absalom!* Boyhood stories about his great-grandfather and namesake, Col. William Clark Falkner of the Confederate States Army, heavily influenced him. (The family later changed the spelling.)



Cadet Faulkner while a cadet at the School of Military Aeronautics at the University of Toronto in 1918 | public domain

Having served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Mexican-American War, William Clark Falkner became a colonel at the outset of the Civil War after raising a company of soldiers in the 2nd Mississippi Infantry. In 1861, Confederate general PGT Beauregard nicknamed him the Knight of the Black Plume, but Faulkner preferred to be called the Old Colonel, a title he used for the remainder of this life. During Reconstruction, he was active in rebuilding northern Mississippi and founded the Ship Island, Ripley, and Kentucky Railroad Company.

Clay Hoffman, April 19, 2024, blueandgrayeducation.org



William Faulkner the writer, in 1954 | Library of Congress

Colonel Falkner also was a successful writer in his own right, authoring novels, poems, a travelogue, and at least one play. His most famous work was a novel entitled *The White Rose of Memphis*, a murder mystery

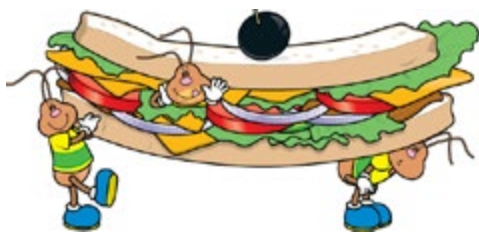
see [AUTHORS cont. on page 6](#)

Congratulations!

LBG John Fitzpatrick was recognized by GNMP Park Watch Program for completing 1,000 volunteer hours. Since 2007 when John received specialty training in the protection of the parks' natural, cultural, historical, and human resources, John has been helping educate and inform visitors about the laws and regulations of the park to ensure the protection of the park resources as well as the safety of visitors. At times, John has been called on to assist with traffic and crowd control during special events. Well Done! 🎉



Annual Summer Picnic



About 35 or so Guides and Associate members attended the Annual Summer Picnic. It was a good evening of fellowship and a tough "Who Said it?" trivia.



Steve Slaughter played music on his fife to add to the atmosphere. He even played the Marine Corps hymn.

Mike Rupert, once again, did an amazing job on the picnic, going above and beyond to make this happen. If you see Mike thank him for his hard work.



Congratulations!

Wayne Motts, LBG and former President of the Gettysburg Foundation, has returned to the National Civil War Museum as its CEO. While we will miss him in the Visitor Center, perhaps we will see him more often on the battlefield in uniform. 🇺🇸

Guide Speaking Engagements

LBG John Fitzpatrick will be speaking to the Chesapeake CWRT in Annapolis, MD on May 14, 2026 and to the Hershey CWRT in Hershey, PA on September 17, 2026. Topic: "No Fail Here; the Real Back Story to President Lincoln's Leadership Challenges [Personal, Political, and Policy] in Preparing and Delivering the Gettysburg Address."

(Let us know if you have a speaking engagement so we can get the word out to ALBG members.) 🇺🇸

Guides Online

If you missed the last Continuing Education program at the General Membership meeting or couldn't get here for the Battle Anniversary walks, you can always catch a Guide Online. On YouTube "channel": LBG Garry Adelman with "American Battlefield Trust" broadcast live from Gettysburg 162; spend Mondays with LBG Tim Smith & "Gettysburg History;" more than just Sickles on the "Battle of Gettysburg Podcast" with LBG Jim Hessler & LBG Eric Lindblade; tons of Guides have been guests on both LBG Fran Feyock's "763 Leadership Group" and Matt Callery's "Addressing Gettysburg"; and LBG "Tim Fulmer Gettysburg Guide" has an excellent 2-part video on the Elliott Map. On the web: LBG Bobby Housch has been updating video links to Gettysburg Daily (like watching Classic Movies, it is great to see some long gone Guides back in uniform.) On Netflix: LBG Doug Douds joined an all-star cast in the "Churchill at War" mini-series. 🇺🇸

<https://gettysburgtourguides.org/albgseminar/>



SUMMER/FALL 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.

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.

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. 🍷

The following is a list of the Sunday Afternoon Battlefield Walks for 2025. All programs begin at 2:00 p.m. Please check the ALBG website for further details.

7 September 2025: RE Lee and CSA Corps Commanders

LBG Chris Bagley

Meeting place: This "walk" begins at Lee's HQ and ends at Longstreet's Equestrian Memorial.

14 September 2025: In the Eye of the Storm: The Union II Corps Artillery on Cemetery Ridge

LBG Billy Griffiths

Meeting place: Hancock Avenue at the Battery B, 1st New York Artillery (Rorty) monument.

21 September 2025: The Farms of the Taneytown Road

House and Farm Historian Kendra Debany and LBG Paul Bailey

Meeting Place: Guinn Farm (the current Park Law Enforcement office). Park at the National Cemetery Overflow lot.

28 September 2025: No walk. ALBG Seminar.

5 October 2025: Napoleon Power: The story of the 1857 12-pounder Gun Howitzer and its role as used by six batteries on the battlefield

LBG Ralph Siegel

Meeting Place: Oak Hill, car-pooling to Lee Headquarters, Warfield Ridge

Tower parking lot, Peach Orchard pull-off, Trostle Farm and overflow parking lot near Hunt Avenue and Baltimore Pike intersection.

12 October 2025: The Pettigrew - Trimble Charge of July 3

LBG Jim Hessler

Meeting Place: North Carolina Monument.

19 October 2025: Shadows in the Valley of Death

LBG Jessie Wheedleton

Meeting place: Smith's Battery's 2 guns halfway down Crawford Avenue. Please park along Crawford Avenue on the right side with all wheels on the pavement.

26 October 2025: "Those days have been long passed, but will never be forgotten" Posey's brigade.

LBG Phil Muskett

Meeting place: Tennessee State Monument. 🍷

Continuing Education

LBG Bill Thomas, Education Chair

PROGRAMS SET FOR 2025

The remaining Continuing Education Programs for 2025 are as follows:

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

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

The August program 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

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. 🍷

The Other Flank - Culp's Hill

Friday: Buffet Dinner, presentation by LBG Bruce Rice.

Saturday and Sunday

- 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 @ Rupp House

Join us Sept. 26 27 & 28 for The Other Flank - Culp's Hill.

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

“The Other Flank - Culp’s Hill”

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

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides

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!

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

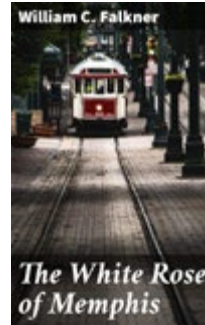
The website link is
<https://gettysburgtourguides.org/albgseminar/>

“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 in *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* – Ishmael Beah

AUTHORS cont. from page 3

set aboard a steamboat of the same name. Shortly after being elected to the Mississippi legislature in 1889, he was shot by a former business partner, who allegedly was motivated by a lingering grudge. Colonel Falkner died the next day.



The White Rose of Memphis, available on Amazon

Both Hemingway and Faulkner were recipients of the Nobel Prize for Literature. 📖

This Civil War Dispatch has been brought to you by the Blue and Gray Education Society, a non-profit 501-3C educational organization. Please visit us at www.blueandgrayeducation.org.

Blue and Gray Education Society is a not-for-profit educational organization chartered to educate, provide tours, lectures, interpretive markers and support for historic sites, and promote historical dialogue. This article was submitted without remuneration, and while we respect the academic freedom of the author, the views of the author do not necessarily represent the views or position of the Blue and Gray Education Society, its volunteers, directors, or staff.



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. 📖

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*. 📖