

Photo by John Armstrong

THE ASSOCIATION OF LICENSED BATTLEFIELD GUIDES®  
GETTYSBURG, PA

# Battlefield Dispatch

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"The art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can, and keep moving on." – Ulysses S. Grant



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.

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

Contributed by LBG Phil Muskett, ALBG President

### THE ALBG NEEDS YOU!!!

We are currently looking for Licensed individuals to lead and serve on the Executive Council.

The positions that need filling are:

- President 1 year term
- Treasurer 1 year term
- Possibly Secretary, as well, which is also a 1-year term.

We are beginning to look for a Bookkeeper outside the ALBG, to manage our financial books. This will relieve a lot of pressure off the Treasurer position.

We are also in search of someone to organize and manage the 2026 Fall Seminar. We are in danger of not having a 2026 Fall Seminar.

If you have the spare time, and the willingness to work towards making a difference, throw your hat in the ring. The only requirement is current membership in the ALBG.

The election season started at the General Meeting on August 15, at the Gettysburg Heritage Center. Send out an email to the 2026 Election Committee to throw your hat in the ring. Email Bill Thomas, [oldshawnee@gmail.com](mailto:oldshawnee@gmail.com).

The ballot will be finalized with those members running by November 1st, and the winners announced at the November General Meeting, November 12th at 5pm. Location at the Gettysburg Heritage Center. 🗳️

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

#### OFFICERS

President.....Phil Muskett  
Secretary.....Fred Hawthorne  
Treasurer .....Bruce Rice

#### AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBER

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

#### AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBER

(Two-year term - 2025-2026)  
Paul Bailey • Gary Vezza

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Newsletter .....Linda Joswick (ALBG)  
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Don't forget to like  
ALBG on Facebook!

## FALL 2025 BATTLEFIELD WALK SCHEDULE

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.

**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 Wheelleton

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. 🗳️

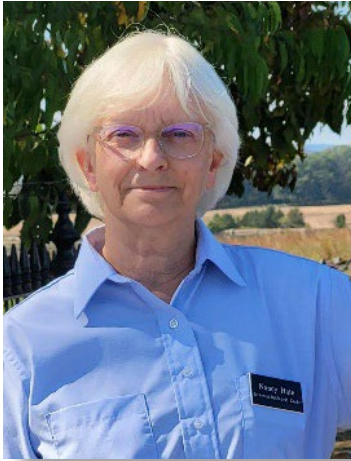
## MY INTERVIEW WITH DR. WILLIAM NORTH STERRETT

Contributed by LBG Phillip Muskett

During my master's studies at American Military University in 2004, I enrolled in a course requiring completion of an oral interview. Initially uncertain about whom to interview, I received a recommendation from Phil Trostle while touring the battlefield with him. Dr. William North Sterrett, was the name I was given. "Old Doc" and I planned to meet, but the weather had other ideas. We had an ice storm. This interview will be over

see STERRETT cont. on page 5

## MEET THE NEW LICENSED BATTLEFIELD GUIDES



**Nancy Hale**

I have been a United Methodist pastor for 27 years and currently serve Calvary United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, PA. I fell in love with Gettysburg during my first visit to the battlefield 8 years ago. I took a tour with LBG Andy Ward and was so impressed by his knowledge, kindness, and ability to help me enter into the story that I decided then and there to start studying for the guide exam! My discovery of three ancestors who fought here in the 149th PA and the 6th PA Reserves helped cement my resolve to become an LBG someday.

As a Civil War chaplain reenactor, I portray Ella Gibson Hobart, the only woman to serve as a chaplain during the war. My book containing eyewitness accounts from Union chaplains who were at Gettysburg (*A Sight Never to be Forgotten*) will be released soon by Gettysburg Publishing, and my novel, *Faith and Duty*, is about a chaplain's struggle to reconcile his faith with his sense of duty.

I am honored to join other guides whose passion for Gettysburg have inspired so many visitors throughout

the years. I hope we can always honor the enormous responsibility we have been given to preserve and share its many stories.



**Erik Krotz**

Growing up in Pennsylvania, my family's idea of a vacation was going to the Amish country around Lancaster. As such, they would give me a day in Gettysburg to tide my History passion over until the next visit. Larsons Motor Lodge, the National Tower, and the Civil War Wax Museum all were places of wonder when I was younger. So, Adams County has been part of my life for a very long time.

I am a veteran educator of 26 years. I hold a Masters in Educational Administration and served as a teacher, coach and as an administrator for schools in Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Texas.

I taught and coached at all levels ranging from Middle School up to college age and still appreciate the "Lightbulb" moment when students discover a topic for the first time. I am also close to completing a Masters in American history from Gettysburg College and am humbled that I will be able

to call that school my alma mater shortly.

I am thrilled to be able to join this esteemed Guide force and be able to share the story of the American Civil War, and particularly Gettysburg, with the guests of the Park



**Janet McCabe**

I have been fascinated by the Civil War since my dad took me to several battlefields during the summer I was eight years old. When I returned to school that fall and the teacher asked us to draw a picture of what we did that summer, I drew a picture of the Stonewall Jackson wounding monument at Chancellorsville. Apparently, that was the thing that impressed me the most that summer! I chose to pursue a career in finance rather than academia, earning a BS in Economics from the University of Virginia and an MBA from the Amos Tuck School at Dartmouth College, but kept my love of history alive via battlefield visits, volunteering and research. I've been a docent at the George Spangler Farm and Field Hospital since 2017, where I've enjoyed telling visitors about the experience of civilians like

George and Elizabeth Spangler as well as the state of medical care at that time.

This was my second attempt at earning the badge. I passed the test in 2015 but was eliminated during the panel interviews. Perseverance pays off, however, and I am thrilled now to join the Guide force and share the stories of the men who fought here with a wider audience.



**Judy Morley**

I am a native of Colorado. I fell in love with Gettysburg on a family vacation here when I was 7 years old. I have a PhD in history and taught at the University of Colorado for 12 years. I moved to Gettysburg in 2018 to be closer to my daughter, and knew immediately that I wanted to be a Licensed Battlefield Guide.

In addition to guiding, I am the Executive Director of the Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center in Gettysburg, as well as the owner of the Gettysburg Cookie Company. I am thrilled to join the prestigious group of Licensed Battlefield Guides. 🇺🇸

# The Fall Seminar: “The Other Flank”

A simple math formula to remember the fighting on Culp’s Hill is 3v1; three Confederate brigades versus one Union brigade. However, on 26-28 September, the formula was 3=1; three great days of presentations / battlewalks equaled a great ALBG Seminar. Over 53 attendees traveled from Connecticut, Indiana, Texas, Wisconsin, and points in between to learn more about the “Other Flank.”

LBG Bruce Rice started off the seminar Friday night after a tasty dinner at the Dobbins House, with his presentation “Storm Clouds on the Horizon.” Bruce set the stage by channeling his inner Wilbur Nye, bringing the two armies to Gettysburg and on Culp’s Hill.

On Saturday, LBG Bill Trelease put us right in the breastworks of “Greene’s Defense of the Union Right on July 2nd.” I thought he was going to break out the picks



Bruce Rice

and shovels. All the work paid off...we were able to hold off “Stewart’s Brigade” with LBG Steve Slaughter in a butternut uniform. Stewart’s troops were supported by “Confederate Reinforcements” led into the valley between upper and lower Culp’s Hill by LBG Phil Muskett. Following in the footsteps of Colonel Thomas Kenan’s 43rd North Carolina, Phil crossed the breastworks. Victory was in sight, but the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York soldiers of “Candy’s & Shaler’s Brigades” at LBG Charlie Fennell’s command opened with a vengeance at a range of 100 yards. A Marylander wrote, “the death shriek rends the air on every side.”

A little rain earlier in the day couldn’t stop the gathering at the fire pit near the Rupp House that night with LBGs Ralph Siegel & Bill Trelease.

On Sunday, there was no confusion with the orders LBG Therese Orr is-



Steve Slaughter

sued as the 2nd Mass and 27th Indiana began the “Spangler Meadow Fight.” We honored the fallen and the survivors by visiting the monuments they left us with LBG Rich



Charlie Fennell



Bill Trelease

Goedkoop answering “What Mean These Stones.” And yes, it is a buffalo on the 7th Indiana monument. Billy Smith may have charged a little “extra,” but LBG Rob Abbott was right there giving away snacks and drinks.

We finished with a group photo and a salute to LBG Bill Thomas for coordinating the seminar.

Thanks to all who attended and all who volunteered. 🍷

[More pictures on pg. 6](#)

# Guide Speaking Engagements

Saturday August 16: LBGs Wayne Motts and Jim Hessler organized a sold-out “Third Day at Gettysburg” symposium at the Adams County Historical Society. Jim covered July 3 planning and Meade’s options after Pickett’s Charge as his topics, while Wayne spoke on Confederate artillery and



Wayne Motts & Jim Hessler

battle-flags during Pickett’s Charge. Although originally intended as a one-off event, we are considering doing it again next year.

Monday August 18: LBG Jim Hessler spoke on “THE TRIAL OF DAN SICKLES” at the Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Roundtable.

Saturday August 23: LBG Jim Hessler was on the

road again. This time at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg to speak on his new book, *First Day at Gettysburg* (Casemate, 2025).

Wednesday September 10: LBG Therese Orr presented a 1-hour presentation, Leadership Lessons from the Battlefield, to the American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania 2025 conference in Gettysburg. During the presentation, she highlighted the leadership lessons at Gettysburg exhibited by John Buford, Robert E. Lee, Richard Ewell, James Longstreet and Joshua Chamberlain.

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.) 📅

Therese Orr presentation



## 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](mailto:orr1978@gmail.com), for inclusion in future issues of the *Dispatch*. 📖



## EVENTS IN 2026

### ALBG HONORS BANQUET

On Saturday, January 24th ALBG will honor LBGs Paul Bauserman, Charlie Fennell, Dave Richards & Dave Weaver for 40years of service. Tickets available soon.

### ALBG SCHOLARS DINNER

On Friday, April 17th ALBG hosts Scott Hancock, Professor of History and Africana Studies at Gettysburg College. His

scholarly interests focus on the African American experience from the mid-seventeenth century through the Civil War. Some of his work has appeared in the anthologies *Paths to Freedom*; *We Shall Independent Be*; *Slavery, Resistance, Freedom*; *The Civil War and the Summer of 2020*, and in the journal *Civil War History*. Tickets available soon.

**2026 ASSOCIATION DAY** (TBD March /April) Battle of South Mountain. 📖

STERRETT *cont. from page 1*

the phone. These are a few of my favorite stories.

“Old Doc” as he like to be called, first met General Eisenhower in 1946, while attached to the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Hospital in Japan. “Old Doc” was the chief of orthopedics at the time. General Eisenhower and General Douglas MacArthur toured the hospital ward that Sterrett was in charge. The two Generals entered the ward, and MacArthur posted himself beside the door and stood there for the entire visit. Eisenhower visited every soldier in that ward. The one he spent the most

time with was an African American soldier who had lost both legs as a result of an accident. (He had fallen between two railroad cars.) “Old Doc” told me that he thought he would get in major trouble for this, because that soldier was in an officers only room. Instead, Ike sat and joked with the soldier. The longest time Ike spent with any soldier that visit. General MacArthur spoke to none of the soldiers, he just stood by the door. That story changed my perspective on MacArthur.

“Old Doc’s” first Gettysburg meeting with Mr. and

Mrs. Eisenhower was after the Eisenhower’s moved to Gettysburg permanently in 1961. One evening, Mamie’s mother was rushed to the emergency room at Gettysburg hospital. Dr. Hal Johnson was the attending physician. Dr. Johnson and Dr. Sterrett ran a joint medical practice in Gettysburg for many years. The White House staff selected Dr. Johnson to be the Eisenhower family physician while in Gettysburg due to this emergency room visit. Dr. Johnson nominated “Old Doc” to be his partner due to the increased workload.

One evening Dr. Johnson received a call, saying that Ike was having stomach pains. “Old Doc” went with him. They drove up to the house, knocked on the door. No one answered. They entered the door, went up the steps and began to treat Ike, in their bedroom. Then Secret Service came in. How times have changed. Ike

was flown to Washington to remove a bowel blockage later that evening. Ike’s new diet consists of pig knuckles and sauerkraut. Which Ike responded that he “liked it.”

Dr. Johnson passed away shortly after Ike, leaving “Old Doc” to continue treating Mamie, or Mrs. E. as “Old Doc” called her, until her death in 1979. After Ike’s death, “Old Doc” would visit Mamie weekly on Wednesday’s. After the exam they would sit and talk. Many times, Mamie would end a story, and say, “that was classified.”

After Mamie’s death of a stroke, “Old Doc” on Friday afternoons, would give tours of the Eisenhower house. He did that for more than fifteen years. I am told he sat in the same chair when he was there. I’m not sure if it is still there.

Dr. Sterrett and I talked for over an hour. The stories

*see STERRETT cont. on page 6*

## Continuing Education

LBG Bill Thomas, Education Chair

### PROGRAMS SET FOR 2025

The remaining Continuing Education Programs for 2025 are as follows:

**NOVEMBER 12-** Gary Veza presents “The Flying Nuns at Gettysburg”

The location for the November Program is the Gettysburg Heritage Center and the time will be 5:00.

Volunteers are needed to present topics in 2026. 🎨

## Vandalism in the Park

The Park has experienced two relatively rare cases of vandalism over the past few weeks.

On Sunday, September 15, a man etched the initials “LJR” into one of the bronze plaques on the monument to the 12th and 44th New York. A visitor witnessed the vandalism and took a photo of the man believed to have done the etching, which was posted on Facebook. The investigation is in the hands of GNMP Law Enforcement.

On Thursday, September 25, Park maintenance staff discovered that a capstone containing dinosaur prints

was missing from the bridge over Plum Run. It was found below the bridge in the creek. A capstone is removed on the other side of the bridge as well.

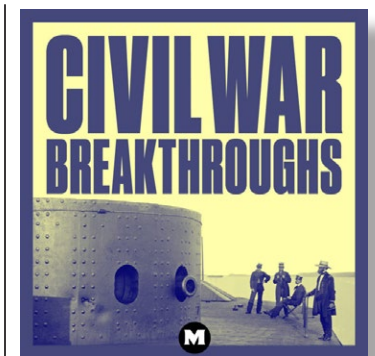
After dark on Friday, September 19, Park Watch discovered a fallen tree across West Confederate Avenue before the Warfield Tower. It hit the cast-iron sign of Parker’s Battery and shattered it into several pieces. Fragments of the sign were recovered. It could be a while before it can be repaired and placed back on the field. 🎨

## A NEW PODCAST FOR THE CIVIL WAR MONITOR

*Article from The Gazette Oct. 10, 2025*

We’re excited to announce that the first two episodes of the Civil War Monitor’s latest podcast, **Civil War Breakthroughs**—a series that explores how the inventions, ideas, and innovations of the Civil War era defined a new kind of conflict—are live.

In the premier episode, historian Jonathan Noyalas discusses the significance and impact of several key advances in ammunition.



In Episode 2, Gordon Calhoun talks about the pioneering developments in naval warfare that occurred during the conflict, from the rise of ironclads to the birth of the submarine.

Sponsored by the Kenosha Civil War Museum and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. 🎨

<https://www.civilwarmonitor.com/category/civil-war-breakthroughs/>

THE FALL SEMINAR *cont. from page 3*

Phil Muskett



Rich Goedkoop

## Welcome New Director of the Civil War Institute



Gettysburg College recently named Ian Isherwood, Professor of War and Memory Studies, as

Director of the Civil War Institute and Director of the Civil War Era Studies (CWES) Program, building upon the extraordinary legacy left by Peter Carmichael. ALBG looks forward to working with Professor Isherwood. 🇺🇸

"Let me tell you what is coming. After the sacrifice of countless millions of treasure and hundreds of thousands of lives you may win Southern independence, but I doubt it. The North is determined to preserve the Union. They are not a fiery, impulsive people as you are, for they live in colder climates. But when they begin to move in a given direction, they move with the steady momentum and perseverance of a mighty avalanche."

– Texas Governor Sam Houston



Therese Orr

## Three Cheers for Our Hard-Tack!

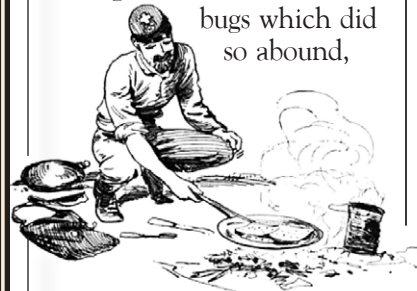
Contributed by Associate Member Doug Redding

*Quote from a 17th Maine regimental written by a vet of the unit concerning poor quality hardtack issued in November 1863.*

"The rations issued at this time were not of the best quality. The 'hardtack' had nearly all participated in the Peninsular Campaign, more than a year before, and was mouldy (sic), wormy, and partially spoiled. So rare was it that good rations were received, that the men would give 'three cheers for our hard-tack,' whenever we received a lot that was not wormy. The writer witnessed a ludicrous scene one day at dinner. Two officers sat vis-a-vis at table, each one, without caring to mention the circumstance to the other, was breaking up his 'hardtack' into minute crumbs, and picking out the big white worms and bugs which did so abound,

studiously and carefully avoiding any mention of the quality of the dinner, and apparently enjoying it hugely, when, looking up from their pastime, theirs eyes met; human nature could stand it no longer; they burst into a hearty laugh at the absurdity of the scene, and compared notes. The colonel found the biggest and fattest worms, but the lieutenant captured the greatest variety of bugs. Worms were not regarded as particularly objectionable, unless they could be seen; but being obliged to shake them off our every mouthful, rather tended to damage our appetites at times. The writer has frequently seen soldiers, at their meals, stop eating, and each one selecting a worm, place it in the center of a circle, and make bets on the speed of their respective racers, the one reaching the outer lines first, winning the money." 🇺🇸

Houghton, Edwin B., *The Campaigns of the Seventeenth Maine*, Butternut Press, Inc., 1987. pp. 134-135.



STERRETT *cont. from page 5*

he told me I use today on tours when someone asks about Ike and Mamie. "Old Doc" and I never met face to face. We said we would meet soon after the phone call, but the appointment was never made. Dr. Sterrett passed away on November 10, 2006. 🇺🇸