

Photo by John Armstrong

THE ASSOCIATION OF LICENSED BATTLEFIELD GUIDES®  
GETTYSBURG, PA

# Battlefield Dispatch

Vol. 43 No. 6

December 2025

"What could I do but go with them [Civil War soldiers], or work for them and my country? The patriot blood of my father was warm in my veins." – Clara Barton



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 Holidays are rapidly approaching. A chill is in the air, and the old year passes away and the new year gets ready to begin. As with the end of every year we have members leaving the Executive Council and new members coming on to the Council.

Welcome Ralph Siegel as the new President of the ALBG and Bobby Housch as a member of the Executive Council.

I am disappointed that no one ran for Treasurer or Secretary. I encourage all ALBG members to consider volunteering and contributing in any capacity they are able. Whether it's through attending dinner events, participating in committee work, volunteering at the Picnic, or running for office, these responsibilities shouldn't always fall on the same six or seven people.

Leaving the Council will be Bill Thomas, Bruce Rice and me. Bill and Bruce have worked tirelessly over the last year, dealing with seminars, rebates, dues and a myriad of other brush fires that came up. Thank you, Bill and Bruce, for your support and work over the past year and longer.

These last two years I have had the great honor of being the President of the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides. Back in 2004, as I sat in the packed GAR hall, I never dreamed I would be President of this great association. It has been rewarding and frustrating all at the same time.

Back in December of 2023 when I was first elected, I sent out to all Guides, my goals for my term as President. The Executive Council helped make those goals. I could not have done it alone.

First on the list was the patch. Though we were not able to keep the old patch, we have a new one that we can move forward with and build new memories with that one.

Second on the list was Tessitura improvements. We made some improvements, but overall, there is still a lot of work to be done. At the time of this writing, I had a meeting the day before with the Foundation concerning Tessi issues. Ralph sat in at that meeting as well. A new system may be coming down the pike once the new General Agreement is signed between the NPS and Foundation. Last year Bruce Rice and I met with the Tessi team and identified some problems that they

were able to fix. Some they could not. Thank you, Bruce, for helping with that and as Treasurer this past year.

Philosophy on our Cash Reserves. I still believe that we could have forecasted our budgets for three years, instead of one but I never got around to getting this brought up for a vote. We did not find any new office space, but we still may need one.

Education we did improve. Bill Thomas brought on another CE opportunity, giving us four CE events a year. Thank you, Bill, for making this happen and running the Fall Seminars.

We have become more involved in Park Education programs. We had Guides involved in the Anniversary battle walks the last two years, more Guides involved with Winter Lectures, and we were able to help the NPS during a manpower shortage covering weekend Cemetery Walks in the spring of 2025. Thank you to Fran Feyock for making that happen.

Communication has gotten a lot better between the NPS/Foundation and Guides. The email traffic between us and them has grown exponentially. Thank you to Chief Interpretive Ranger Chris Gwinn and Superin-

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### 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 Wheelton

#### AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBER

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

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ALBG on Facebook!

## TRUMP PRESIDENT'S

PRES REPORT cont. from pg. 1

tendent Kristina Heister for working with me on that goal.

We did increase membership but were not able to reduce dues.

We have reinstated some of our donations in the community. This upcoming year I am excited to see Paul Bailey taking this by the horns and working to get us back involved in giving to others.

We have improved our advertising these past two years. We started advertising in the Gettysburg Experience. The CBS special on the Guide exam really helped as well. (Though not planned.) We put an ad in the Civil War Monitor magazine. Jessie was the driver behind advertising growth. My hat is off to you Jessie. We have other advertising opportunities coming soon, as the Foundation Marketing Team, Bruce McConnell, is looking to update their webpage, making the Guides easier to find. (Fingers are crossed on this one.)

The one thing I am most proud of was not even on my list. The Honor's banquet. That event is one of my best memories as a Guide. Seeing the years of experience and dedication of those individuals we honored. Gary Vezza took that event and made it into more than I could have imagined. Thank you, Gary, for taking this one on and running with it. (Plus, Gary made the Associates Day a great event as well.)

Mike Rupert, our Guide Force Auto Mechanic. Mike took the Guide Picnic and has made it very successful. Attendance at those two events has improved over the past two years. We can never thank Mike enough for the

cold water he brings in for us in the summer. Thank you, Mike, for all you have done and continue to do. Maybe one day you can open a garage here in town for Guides and associates only.

Overall, we did well and met many of our goals. I give myself a "C".

Last but not least. Fred, as Secretary, did an amazing job, not only keeping things in order and bailing me out of many mistakes I made or would have made. I could not have done it without you. I owe a lot to Fred for the advances we have made over the last two years. Fred, thank you.

I will be taking on a new role at the start of the year. Mike Strong is stepping down as Librarian, and I will be stepping into that role. Any and all help will be appreciated as I jump into this new role. I hope to see other members get more involved and give back to the Association.

Thank you all for the opportunity to lead this organization, but as you can see, it was a team effort. I will see you on the field in 2026. 🎨



## Guide Room Construction Schedule.

**DECEMBER 14TH:** Facilities department relocates the remaining LBG Room furniture, refrigerator, mailboxes, and pcs over to the Saloon area. There will be an area piped and draped off to the right where the trash cans are currently located. The trash cans will be relocated as needed.

**DECEMBER 15TH:** LBGs will work out of their temporary location until the room construction has been completed. Demolition starts in the LBG Room.

**FEBRUARY 9TH WEEK:** LBGs onstruction completed.

Thank you to the LBGs who help declutter the room and relocate items.

We are going to keep 8 orange chairs at the main table and replace all the other ones with new chairs. That means we have 9 orange chairs to donate. If you are interested in an orange chair, please contact Brian Shaffer. This is a first come first serve basis. Don't take any chairs from the room unless Brian has got back with you. 🎨

## Remembrance Day Parade & Illumination

The slight rain didn't damper the annual Remembrance Day parade. Crowds lined the street to honor the sacrifices made during the Civil War and to honor the fallen and enduring legacy of Lincoln's words. The parade consisted of "Sons" and "Daughters" of Union and Confederate veterans, reenactors, military units, bands, and community organizations. And wind only attacked Thaddeus Stevens' wig.

The Gettysburg Foundation did a wonderful job with the 23rd Illumination marking everyone of 3,512 graves in the semi-circle with a candlelit luminary and reading the names of the fallen. 🎨



Picture courtesy of Destination Gettysburg

# 2025 Cemetery Walk Program Summary and Data Review

Thank you to LBG Fran Feyock and all the Guides who continued the partnership with the NPS in presenting the annual Cemetery Walk Program—now in its 36th year.

The '25 season saw several key developments. The 7PM Taps program was moved from the Soldiers' National Cemetery to the Pennsylvania Monument, which had a noticeable impact on the flow of visitors and evening

cemetery walk attendance. The season also included 5 weather-related cancellations— 2 for rain and 3 for extreme heat. Importantly, this was the first year that Guides partnered with the NPS to lead early-season weekend Cemetery Walks during April and May.

On average 19 visitors (30 on weekends) (approximately 2,797 total) took part in the walks. While this total was down compared to 3,805

in 2024 and 3,822 in 2023, participation during major holiday weekends—especially Memorial Day and Independence Day—remained strong indicators of public interest.

Fran said it best in his report to the NPS, “As we look toward 2026, the Guides hope that the Taps program can return to the Soldiers' National Cemetery, where its setting enhances both attendance and emotional impact. The upcoming

year will mark the 10th anniversary of the Taps program and the 1,000th performance on Labor Day 2026—a remarkable milestone in Gettysburg's ongoing commemoration of service and sacrifice. The Guides remain deeply honored to be a part of this living history and to continue our shared mission with the NPS.” Congrats Fran! 🎉

## “never forgot what they did here.”

The 162nd Anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address marked with prayers, music, speeches and dreams of a bright future. Dr. Jonathan White, Professor of Ameri-

can studies at Christopher Newport University, the keynote speaker described how Abraham Lincoln never wavered from his commitment to “representative

*see NEVER FORGOT cont. on page 8*



### 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.** 🎁

## 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.”*

**LBG RIK SCARCE:** On December 13, Rik will present *“Other Mainers at Gettysburg,”* a live-narrated film he created that explores the actions of some of the “other” (than the 20th) Maine regiments and batteries that fought at Gettysburg, to the Capital District Civil War Round Table in Watervliet, New York.

On April 8, 2026, he will live-narrate another film of his, *“Battle at Gettysburg: What Soldiers and Civilians Saw,”* as part of the Lifelong Learning Brown Bag Lecture Series at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

And on July 14, 2026, he will present *“Other Mainers”* again, this time at the Thompson Free Library in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine.

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

## ELECTION RESULTS!!!

Ralph Siegel elected President.

Fred Hawthorne elected to vacant '26 At-Large Council member position.

Robert Housch, Jessie Wheedleton and Mike Rupert elected to '27 At-Large Council member positions. 🎁

# United Confederate Veterans Brochure

Contributed by Associate Doug Redding

I have in my collection a brochure issued by the UCV prior to the 1913 reunion at Gettysburg. The purpose of the brochure was to encourage Confederate veterans to attend the reunion. Reading the brochure, it's apparent the UCV felt convincing them would not be an easy task.

At the top of the front panel of the brochure - where everyone would look first - it says in caps "READ EVERY WORD CAREFULLY." A sure sign that the UCV thought its effort would be a tough sell. The primary reasons cited in the brochure for attending were (1) the invite from the PA Commission was very gracious and fraternal; it would be a reunion of equals, (2) veterans could bring their battle flags and UCV Camp

banners, and (3) they could wear their old uniforms or whatever else they preferred.

As good as those reasons were, they weren't enough in the eyes of the UCV. So it tried more convincing with some carefully chosen words in a section called "The Great Characteristics of the Battlefield of Gettysburg." Here's the complete wording of that section.

## "THE GREAT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BATTLEFIELD OF GETTYSBURG"

1. There the numbers engaged were greater than in any other Battle of the War.
2. There the numbers on each side were perhaps more nearly equal than in any other great Battle of the War.

3. That on that field both armies had reached the very highest point of efficiency.

4. That so far as the actual fighting on the field was concerned it was a drawn battle.

5. That on that field each of the two contestants were at many points and in many of the lesser conflicts both successful and unsuccessful.

6. That there was exhibited the unsurpassed bravery and devotion of American manhood.

7. That on that field, on Seminary Ridge, is now being erected by the State of Virginia a monument to the beloved Robert Edward Lee and the brave Virginians who followed him, to be placed on the very spot where he stood to witness his Virginians, led by Pickett,

charge the enemies' (sic) line. (Surely any Confederate Veteran can go where a monument to Lee is erected!)"

Hmm ... it was a drawn battle? Talk about a tough sell! Both sides were successful and unsuccessful? True enough, but in the end the Union army was decidedly more successful. Where Lee stood to witness his Virginians? Okay, that would attract Virginians, but what about non-Virginians? It doesn't seem likely they'd care for that wording - especially vets from North Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Florida. Be that as it may, over 8,000 Confederate veterans attended the reunion. So it would seem the brochure had a positive effect. 🍷



## ALBG HONORS BANQUET

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

## ALBG SCHOLARS DINNER

On Friday, April 17th the 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 ASSOCIATES DAY** (TBD March /April) Battle of South Mountain. 🍷



**A REAL BELLY BUSTER** — If your eyes are bigger than your stomach this Thanksgiving, know you're not alone. Even Civil War soldiers were prone to overindulging on the big day, as evidenced by this December 1864 Harper's Weekly cartoon titled "Bellycose appearance of our brave boys after Thanksgiving." (Courtesy Civil War Monitor Gazette.) 🍷

# Lights! Camera! Air Conditioner?

Once again, Hollywood came to Gettysburg. On October 11th & 12th, Baltimore St was transformed into the set of a new film from actor and director Bo Brinkman. *Gettysburg, 1863* follows a fictional Gettysburg family whose lives are changed by the Civil War. The story is complete with a street battle scene right outside of the family home, a fight for freedom with help from the Underground Railroad, and a Union soldier's struggle to find his way home.

Multiple dump truck loads of dirt, camouflaged parking meters, and green screens turned the historic Shriver House into a set for filming the July 1st battle and retreat and the procession to the Soldiers' National Cemetery before Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Spectators watched as fake windows were battle-damaged (but no actual damage occurred to the Shriver House during filming). What exploded was social media, with images of a "non-historic" air conditioner just out of the camera eye.

We look forward to seeing the final movie in an air-conditioned theater. 🎬



Picture courtesy of Michele Hessler



## Thank You for Your Service!

After 7 Years of Service, **Mike Strong** is stepping down as the ALBG Librarian and handing over the keys to Phil Muskett.

Thank you to **Bruce Rice** for volunteering to be the ALBG Treasurer this past year.

Thank you to **Bill Thomas** for serving as the Education /Seminar Chair.

Thank you to **Phil Muskett** for his service on the ALBG Executive Council and last 2 years as ALBG President. 🎬



## FROM THE LIBRARY

*Contributed by LBG Mike Strong, Librarian*

As I approach the proverbial "four score" I've decided to pass the library baton to the "next man up," that being Phil Muskett. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve as the guide librarian for the past eight years.

In 2018 Rob & Kay Abbott conducted an inventory of our collection that revealed 3739 titles on our shelves. Since then, through the generosity of multiple guides, past and present, and friends of the ALBG I have cataloged and added over

600 books to our collection. During the same period through a series of book sales and seminar raffles a Library Fund, now approaching \$6000, was created.

As I step aside, I would encourage all members to utilize our wonderful collection and ask that our members and friends of the ALBG continue to support our library.

Good luck to the new Librarian, and Happy Holidays to all! 🎬

## The Gettysburg Gun

*Contributed by LBG Therese Orr*

During our July 2025 vacation to the Boston area, my husband and I took a trip to the Varnum Armory Museum in East Greenwich, Rhode Island. Our reason: to see the "Gettysburg Gun".

The Gettysburg Gun is the 4th piece of Battery B, 1st Rhode Island Artillery. This gun was "born" in Boston, MA. Henry Northey Hooper apprenticed under Paul Revere, and eventually purchased Revere's Massachusetts foundry. Establishing his own company, Henry H. Hooper and Co. (H.N.H. & Co), he became well known for his construction of bells and chimes, many of which still exist in New England today. It will be through his business and political connections that he obtained a commission to produce artillery for the Union Army in 1862, specifically Napoleons. Nearly a third of Napoleons

produced during the war came from Hooper's foundry. The Gettysburg Gun has serial number 2, weighs 1,232 pounds, and was inspected by Thomas Jefferson Rodman (TJR).

The Battery was organized in Providence, Rhode Island and mustered into service in August 1861. After arriving in Washington, they drilled on six 12-pound James rifles. One of those guns would be used, and lost, at Ball's Bluff that October. That lost gun, and the remaining five, were replaced with four 10-pound Parrott rifles and two howitzers. On July 31, 1862, at Harrison's Landing, after the Seven Days Battle, the Battery's guns were replaced with 12-pound Napoleons.

On December 11, 1862, Battery B participated in the shelling of Fredericksburg, VA, expending 786 rounds.

*see GETTYSBURG GUN cont. on pg. 6*

GETTYSBURG GUNS *continued from page 5*

The next day, they were the first Battery to cross the river into the town. They advanced to within approximately 200 yards of the Confederate works on December



Varnum Armory Museum

13, where they expended another 384 rounds in about 45 minutes before being ordered to cease fire.

The Battery will participate in the second Battle of Fredericksburg in May 1863, where they shelled Marye's Heights from near the cemetery where George Washington's mother, Mary, was buried. This time, the Union army succeeded in gaining the stone wall. After the retreat following the Battle of Chancellorsville, the Battery spent the rest of May and the first half of June along the Rappahannock River, departing June 14 for Pennsylvania. They spent the night of July 1, 1863 just a few miles south of Gettysburg, First Lieutenant T. Fred Brown now in command.

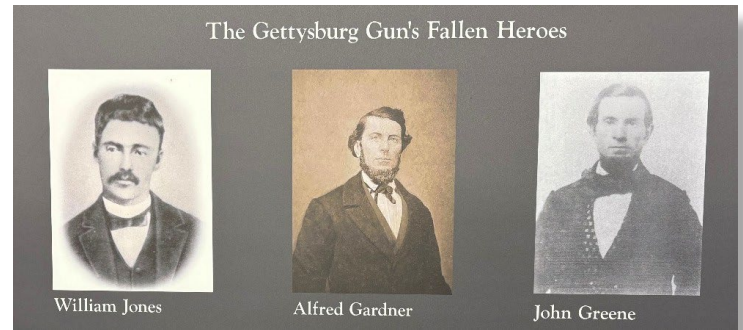
At 5:00 am on July 2 they resumed the march to Gettysburg along the Taneytown Road. Arriving approximately 10:00 am, the Battery was placed on the left side of the II Corps, near Harrow's Brigade, Gibbon's Division, on slightly elevated ground. As the battle progressed on July 2, two regiments of Harrow's Brigade were advanced

to the Emmitsburg Road north of the Codori house, the 82NY and 15MA. LT Brown's Battery advanced as well, to a location halfway between the Emmitsburg Road and the stone wall on Cemetery Ridge, to the right of the infantry. The guns were positioned at a 45-degree angle to the road, facing to the northwest.

According to the Battery history, "... we opened fire upon a rebel battery which had obtained a good range upon General Meade's headquarters. After a well directed fire, of a few moments, the rebel battery could hold out no longer and withdrew, our fire made it so hot for them that they did not even send us a parting salute." They were firing upon batteries of Hill's Corps.

As Ambrose Wright's Georgia Brigade approached the Emmitsburg Road, Brown's left and center sections shifted their attention to their left, while the right section shelled the woods. The left two sections began by firing four second spherical case shell. With the rapid advance of the Georgians, the Battery quickly shifted to three seconds, two seconds, one second, then canister at point blank range, and finally double canister. Then came the order "Limber to the rear". Only four of the pieces were able to make it through the gap in the stone wall, due to infantry fire killing the horses of the other two.

One of those pieces left on the field was #4. Sgt



Albert Straight waited to fire his already loaded piece after LT Brown's order was given. Unfortunately, that small amount of time was enough for the Rebels to shoot his horses. After the retreat of Wright's Brigade, the two abandoned guns were retrieved. Due to loss of men and horses, the fifth and sixth pieces were sent to the rear with the reserve artillery. Their men and serviceable horses were distributed among the remaining four pieces.

Twenty-two men were casualties on July 2, including LT Brown, wounded. First Lieutenant William Perrin assumed command of the Battery.

On a personal note, my husband's ancestor, 1st Sgt Patrick Farrington, Company G, 82NY, was wounded in both legs that day. Whether it was from Rebel fire or from Battery B fire we don't know. Both legs were amputated and he succumbed to his wounds on July 16. He is buried in the Soldiers National Cemetery.

The now 4-gun battery was positioned to the left of the Copse on July 3. During the cannonade, the #4 piece was struck three times by a Rebel shell. The first

shell took out part of the left wooden axle cover, denting the iron axle underneath. The second shell exploded as it struck the muzzle, denting it. PVT William Jones had just taken the Number One position a few moments before. He had been cutting fuses at the limber and had gone forward to let the gunner know that ammunition was running low. Hearing the Number One man saying he needed relief, Jones took his place. He had swabbed the barrel and was waiting for the Number Two man, PVT Alfred Gardner, to load the next charge. As Gardner was about to



insert the charge, the Rebel shell struck the muzzle and exploded. Jones was killed instantly. Gardner was struck in the shoulder and survived for a few moments. As he lay dying, Gardner told his friend, SGT Albert Straight, "Tell my wife I died happy" and asked Straight to send his bible to his wife.

Crewmembers attempted  
see *GETTYSBURG GUN cont. on pg. 8*

# The myth of “Bachelder’s History of the Battle of Gettysburg.”

Contributed by LBG Fred Hawthorne

John Badger Bachelder was a prominent American artist, lithographer, photographer, and historian, best known for his extensive work documenting the Battle of Gettysburg. To Battlefield Guides, of whom Colonel Bachelder can legitimately be numbered among the first, he was a pioneer in the field of battlefield interpretation. But his reputation is somewhat sullied by a persistent myth often repeated even by respected historians.

At the recent Christmas banquet of the Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable the evening’s speaker, Dr. James J. Broomall, professor of history at the University of Richmond, spoke on the topic of “John Bachelder’s Gettysburg”. During his talk Dr. Broomall again brought up this myth which essentially states Colonel Bachelder was paid a large sum of money to write a history of the battle which was completed but never published. He was paid \$50,000 and produced an unreadable tome of 2,550 pages which disappeared into government archives until rediscovered by Audrey and David Ladd who then edited and published a condensed version through *Morningside Press*. Its title was “John Bachelder’s History of the Battle of Gettysburg (1997)”. This is the origins of the myth.

In 1876, Colonel Bachelder, fresh from the success of his Isometrical Map and an early guidebook of the battle, produced a series of three troop position maps. These were based on the Army Engineers (Warren) Map developed in 1868-1869. His troop positions were located

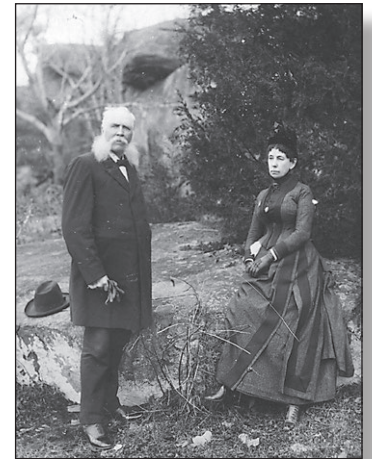
using officers’ reports, first-hand accounts from several meetings he conducted with officers on the field, as well as extensive private correspondence with participants. Copies of these maps are available in the Guide and Park archives.

People recognized the historical value of the maps Bachelder produced but there was a concern that the vast amount of data amassed by Bachelder and used in developing the maps needed to be preserved. Accordingly, in May of 1880, Senator Wade Hampton of South Carolina pushed a bill appropriating \$50,000: “...to complete the survey of the Gettysburg Battlefield, and to provide for the compilation and preservation of data showing the various positions and movements of troops at that battle, illustrated by diagrams. It appropriates fifty thousand dollars for compiling, etc. the said data, under the direction of John B. Bachelder, who has made a full and accurate collection thereof...”

Clearly, from the above wording, Colonel Bachelder was not being paid by the government to write

any general history of the battle. He was charged with documenting the data he used in developing the troop placements on his earlier series of maps. Further, in the wording of the bill it was stated Bachelder was to “... compile all available data used in locating the troop positions on the engineer’s maps, provide diagrams showing troop movements in even greater detail – all materials to become the property of the government.” This bill was signed into law by President James Garfield on June 9, 1880.

Over the next six years Colonel Bachelder took his three Warren-based position maps and broke those down into 28 specific hourly maps – the “diagrams” called for in the 1880 law. He finished with his first volume March 17, 1882, the second April 7, 1883, the third March 5, 1885, and the fourth and final volume October 16, 1886, completing his government contract. The resulting documentation consisted of 2,550 pages accompanied by 58 maps spread over those four volumes. This was work the Ladds distilled down to



John Bachelder with his wife taken at Gettysburg PA 1890 (Wikipedia image)

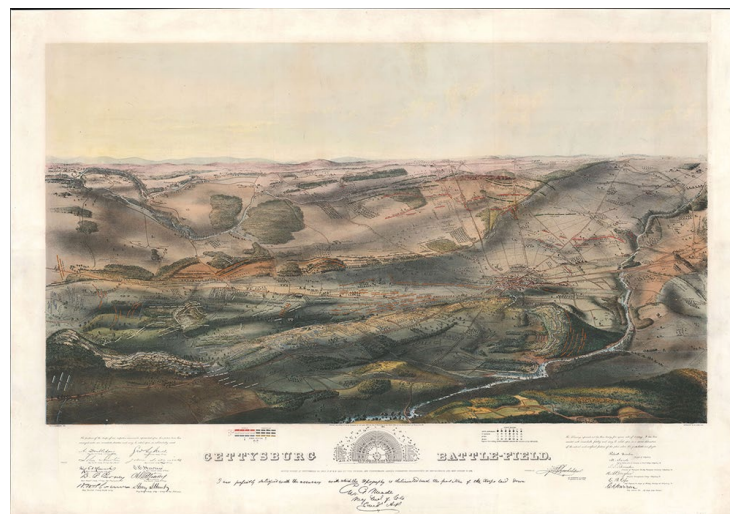
their 800 plus page “Bachelder’s History...”.

Is there other evidence Bachelder never considered this his epic history of the battle? Plenty! An article in the *Springfield Republican* (Oct 6, 1886) reported “Col. Bachelder stated that he had completed the great work of surveying, mapping and collecting records of the battle for the government and was about to proceed with the preparation of a popular history of the battle.” During the 25th Anniversary of the battle in the summer of 1888 there are several references to Colonel Bachelder still talking about writing his history.

Four years later the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* (June 1, 1892) wrote: “...the old gentleman means to write, one of these days, a history of this battle, but he is suffering now from an excess of information and is so burdened with caution that I am afraid the book...will never be written.” How many LBG’s and battle historians can fully understand and agree with this?

At John Bachelder’s death on December 22, 1894, the *Boston Herald* (December 23,

see THE MYTH cont. on pg. 8



Gettysburg Battle Field by John B. Bachelder (Image from Wikipedia)

GETTYSBURG GUNS *continued from page 6*

to load the now damaged piece. The gunpowder bag, torn from the sabot, was loaded first. As two crewmembers attempted to load the shell into the hot barrel,



Damage to carriage, including initials carved into cheek.

they could not get it past the dented muzzle. The shell could not be rammed any further, not by rammer or an ax. As the ax was being swung, a third Rebel shell hit the piece on the cheek, knocking out a wheel spoke and raising the gun on one side. Shrapnel and wooden fragments mortally wounded the Number Four man, PVT John Greene. The hot barrel began to cool and clamped down on the shell in the muzzle, fusing them together. LT Perrin had the piece removed from the field. Gardner, Greene & Jones are all buried in the Soldiers National Cemetery.

The “Gettysburg Gun” was sent to Washington, and until 1874 was displayed at the Washington Navy Yard. Veterans of the Battery formed a committee to request the return of the piece to the state of Rhode Island. It would take an act of Congress, approved February 19, 1874, to achieve the return. However, the return of the piece to Rhode Island did not guarantee that it would be properly preserved.

For years, the piece was taken out of state for exhibitions, loaned out for shows and fairs in Providence, pulled in parades (on its original carriage) and some-

times left unattended. Initials were carved into the wood, and bullets carved out of the wood. For many years, the piece sat outside of the Old State House in Providence, in the elements, manually moved indoors in the winter. In 1903, it was moved to the rotunda of the new State House. Fifty-nine years later, in August 1962, a Navy Captain working at the New England Naval and Maritime Museum in Newport, RI, mused to the museum’s director that the powder charge could still be in the tube. The director passed the theory on to the local television station and soon explosive ordnance experts were descending upon the Gettysburg Gun.

The tube was removed and efforts were made to remove the gunpowder. It was finally achieved by enlarging the vent hole and submerging the tube in water, allow-



Damage to trail

ing the gunpowder to flow out. Now stable and safe, the tube was returned to the State House and once again placed on its carriage. In 1988, the gun, on its original carriage was transported to Gettysburg, placed on the field next to the Copse, for the 125th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

The Gettysburg Gun’s final resting place is the Varnum Armory Museum in East Greenwich, RI. It was moved there in August 2023, on what was to be a 2-year loan from the state of Rhode Island. When we visited in

July, there was no indication that it was going to be moved from the Armory. If you want to visit the museum, and it is a fantastic military museum, you must contact them ahead of time. They have no set hours of operation. Patrick Donovan, Executive Director, generously gave us a tour of the museum on a Saturday morning. Their website is: <https://varnumcontinentals.org/armory-museum/civil-war/>

An excellent book on Battery B is “Forever Silenced: The Story of the Gettysburg Gun” by Stephen Evangelista.

Sources:

“Forever Silenced”, Stephen Evangelista

“The History of Battery B”, John H. Rhodes (available online)

“Gettysburg: The Second Day”, Harry Pfanz 🇺🇸

THE MYTH *continued from page 7*

1894) summarized “...his life work for he has ever since been collecting the facts and writing out the history of this conflict. It fills thousands of pages and is unfinished.” I would hope as a historian that other historians will take the little time necessary to debunk these and many other myths that seems to fill Battle of Gettysburg lore. This era is plenty interesting enough with actual facts without letting authors and publishers invent things – intentionally or unintentionally. John Bachelder left a lot of things behind from his lifelong interest in the battle. A detailed history written from his years of study, unfortunately, is not one. 🇺🇸

NEVER FORGOT *continued from page 3*

government, government of the people, by the people.” Then 16 people joined that government by taking the oath of citizenship. Our new citizens came from Argentina, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, India, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines, South Africa, Ukraine, and Vietnam. Dr. Michelle Krowl, a presidential document specialist at the Library of Congress, became the first woman to recite the Gettysburg Address at a Dedication Day ceremony. Thanks to the co-sponsors: Lincoln Fellowship of Penn-



sylvania, Gettysburg College, GNMP and Gettysburg Foundation. 🇺🇸



Dr. Johnathan White and Dr. Michelle Krowl with Dedication Day flags.