



Photo by John Armstrong

THE ASSOCIATION OF LICENSED BATTLEFIELD GUIDES®  
GETTYSBURG, PA

# Battlefield Dispatch

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"It is safe to assert that no government proper ever had a provision in its organic law for its own termination." – Abraham Lincoln, First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861



The Association of  
Licensed Battlefield  
Guides®  
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The ALBG was founded in 1916 as the official organization to represent and promote licensed guiding at Gettysburg. Interested individuals who do not hold guide licenses may join the ALBG as Associate members by submitting annual dues of \$25. Membership includes a subscription to the *Battlefield Dispatch* and covers the fiscal year July 1 – June 30.

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Secretary.....Open  
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(Two-year term - 2025-2026)  
Paul Bailey • Fred Hawthorne • Gary Vezza

### AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBER

(Two-year term - 2026-2027)  
Robert Housch • Mike Rupert • Jessie Wheedleton

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## THE PRESIDENT'S

NEWS FROM • FOR • AND ABOUT YOUR ASSOCIATION

### REPORT

Contributed by LBG Ralph Siegel, ALBG President

A bit late perhaps yet I shall still wish all of you a Happy New Year. Per-

haps more timely is Happy Groundhog's Day (although as a longtime Jersey Boy I am not sure we understand this whole rodent-in-the-snow thing).

I ought to introduce myself to everyone as the new ALBG president but we will push that down to the end.

I hope and expect that all of you, like me, are looking forward to an active 2026 guiding season, our opportunity and great privilege to share this sacred place with visitors from around the country and around the world.

I am pleased to report the ALBG Executive Council for 2026 met in January to kick off a vigorous year of advanced programming for the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides. LBG Rob Abbott has recruited and developed a terrific set of Tuesday battlewalks starting in June through to the fall. These highly specialized tours have been popular enough that in 2026 we will once again be extending them into the fall with Sunday battlewalks in September and October. (I will be leading one of those

fall walks myself, telling the story of Kryzszazynowski's Brigade.)

LBG Bobby Housch, a new council member, has grasped a huge bull by the horns in setting up our Fall Seminar to be held Nov. 6-7-8. The weekend topic, from Friday banquet at the Dobbin House to Sunday afternoon, will be **"From the Peach Orchard to the Bryan Farm: The Fighting on July 2, 1863."** The ALBG's last four seminars focused on Culp's Hill last year, on Little Round Top in 2024 (first major program after it reopened) and before that, Oak Ridge and the Union 1st Corps.

LBG Gary Vezza led off the ALBG's busy year with a wonderful Honors Banquet on January 24 at the Dobbin House to pay tribute to five Guides who have reached their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of providing tours: LBGs Charlie Fennell, Jeff Kelly, Dave Weaver, Dave Richards and Paul Bauserman. Gary arranged for them to receive lovely plaques and stained-glass LBG Logo ornaments created by LBG Jessie Wheedleton. They also had their names added to our gorgeous new "Legacy Plaque" to honor our most veteran guides past and future. Our heartiest congratulations to all of them. The night really

showed the LBG character as a true brotherhood/sisterhood/personhood.

Hand in hand with Bobby as Education Committee chair, LBG Bill Thomas thankfully remains active as chair for the Visiting Scholar banquet on April 17, a time-honored annual tradition. Bill ran the last two fall seminars as Education Chairman on the Executive Council. His term expired in 2025 but he is still working.

Much thanks to LBGs Kurt Anschuetz and Phil Lechak for reviving the tradition of the winter luncheon at Hoss's Steak & Sea House on Friday, Jan. 15. Those who attended were pleased to have GNMP Superintendent Kristina Heister join us. The remaining luncheons are coming up on February 13 and March 13.

I have taken meetings with all of the big shots you could want to find in the National Park Service, the Gettysburg Foundation and the business community, first shadowing former President Phil Muskett and then in January on my own as the new president. We found unanimous agreement that the Licensed Battlefield Guides are an indispensable asset to the Gettysburg experience. From cars to buses, from hikes to battlewalks,

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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from horseback rides to horse-drawn wagons, from bicycles to Segways to hang-gliders, licensed guides offer their visitors an incomparable battlefield experience. (Okay fine, not hang-gliders.)

I want to thank and pay tribute to my predecessor, Phil Muskett, who during his two years as president worked successfully to build a positive relationship with the superintendent and staff of GNMP.

As for me myself, I have been a Licensed Battlefield Guide since 2004. For most of that time, I conducted tours on long weekends after driving in from New Jersey, so I will always be looking out for the welfare of my former fellow weekenders and part-timers who hail from outside the "717."

After a career in newspapers, including 10 years at the Associated Press in

Trenton, I went to work as executive director of a conservation financing authority in the New Jersey Treasury department. I retired in 2021. My wife, Donna Leusner, retired the following year. We bought a house off of Herr Ridge and moved here in 2023. We have a daughter, Amy, who lives outside of Baltimore.

On the battlefield, I am a "July 2<sup>nd</sup> guy," especially fond of conducting tours in the Peach Orchard concentrating on artillery. But being of German heritage, I also enjoy tours focusing on the German brigades (though I defer to LBG Stuart Dempsey if he is nearby.)

But my favorite bus tour, done many times for the Gettysburg Foundation, is "Gettysburg Shadows." The goal is to have visitors challenge the conventional wisdom about history and even their own assumptions

about the epic battle. The tour grew out of the work of a mentor, Dennis Frye of Harpers Ferry/Antietam fame.

My email: [ralf63@comcast.net](mailto:ralf63@comcast.net). Feel free to reach out with any issue or just to say hello. 🇺🇸

### LBG GROUP PHOTO

#### Save-The-Date

Saturday, June 13, 4:30 pm  
Pennsylvania Memorial 🇺🇸

**Guide Challenge**  
Coins are available for sale at the Guide office for \$4 a coin or a pack of 10 for \$35. See LBG Phil Muskett or LBG Paul Bailey to purchase. 🇺🇸

## EDUCATION

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides will hold their 2026 General Meetings (which includes a speaker before the business part of the meeting) on:

### SATURDAY MARCH 28, 2026

**6:00 PM:** Nancy Hale speaking on "Union Chaplains at Gettysburg."

### SATURDAY JUNE 27, 2026 AT

**7:00 PM:** Paul Bailey is speaking on Nat Turner.

### SATURDAY AUGUST 29, 2026

**AT 7:00 PM:** Rob Abbott is speaking on James Longstreet's line from the Gettysburg Movie "The Heat Reminds Me of Mexico".

### FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2026

**AT 6:00 PM:** Bill Thomas is speaking on Zook's Brigade.

The meetings are held at the Gettysburg Heritage Center on Steinwehr Avenue. The speaker presents for approximately 30-45 minutes. 🇺🇸

## APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEER TO BECOME ALBG TREASURER

Contributed by LBG Ralph Siegel, ALBG President

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides is in need of a licensed guide with some ALBG experience to serve as Treasurer.

Qualifications: Can you balance a checkbook?

Salary: Zero

Value: Crucial

Appreciation: Maximum

Job description: Process checks, pay bills, keep track of who paid for what, make sure all of the accounts and the annual budget are balancing, prepare charts for EC meetings.

Remember how cranky old General Whatzisname said he hated to go into

battle with one boot off? (A strange footwear obsession for the guy who wore slippers at Antietam!)

Well, the ALBG Executive Council is going into 2026 with two boots off.

Last October, NO ONE was willing to stand for election for any of the three Executive Officer positions – President, Treasurer, Secretary.

This is a sign of trouble. Was it indifference? Apathy? For a small, nonprofit business association like ours, such diseases can be fatal. I hope not. It is why at the last moment I volunteered to fill the President seat. (Offi-

cially, there was an election. I ran against "No Preference." I kicked his ass.)

The Council is a living, breathing, organic entity. It is living and breathing because of seven volunteers who attend meetings, carry out their functions and together drive the ALBG forward. We all owe gratitude to Jessie, Paul Bailey, Mike Rupert, Bobby H., Gary V. and Fred H. for stepping up.

So please think about joining our team and fulfilling this vital task. It shows a real commitment to the survival and success of our Association.

The ALBG sponsors

events like the terrifically successful Honors Banquet in January, the Associates Day bus tour coming up in March, the Visiting Scholar banquet in April, the summer and fall battlewalks every week and our capstone event, the Fall Seminar in November.

These great events don't happen without Executive Council volunteers. This newsletter ceases without our volunteers.

Having a Treasurer is crucial to keep everything rolling. If the spirit moves you to action, then we need to talk: [ralf63@comcast.net](mailto:ralf63@comcast.net) or 609-306-9275. 🇺🇸

# 2026 LBG Honors Banquet

Contributed by LBG Jessie Wheelleton

On Saturday January 24th the ALBG held the Second Annual LBG Honors Banquet at the Dobbin House Tavern. Current Guides and their guests were invited and filled the room despite the impending snow storm. Last year fifteen Guides were honored, eight of which had Guided over 50 years. Since then, we suffered the loss of honoree Phil Cole, badge #44, who retired to what Dave Weaver would call the "Guide room in the sky." Many of these Guides would be remembered throughout the evening. This year five more Guides have reached the milestone of guiding 40 years - Paul Bauseman, Jeff Kelly, Dave Richards, Dave Weaver, and Charlie Fennell.

Gary Veza took on the task of organizing the banquet, ordering the plaques, and creating a massive "Legacy Plaque" which lists the names of all Guides who have reached the 40-year threshold since 1915. The plaque was unveiled at the start of the evening. Gary, ALBG President Ralph Siegel, and Steve Slaughter gave opening remarks.

Representing the National Park Service, Chris Gwinn spoke next on the unique service Guided tours provide to



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# First African-American Guide

Contributed by LBG Joe Mieczkowski

This undated photo provided by Rogers T. Smith shows William Francis Penn, center left kneeling, a Gettysburg battlefield guide, posing with a group of well-dressed African-Americans in front of a 1920s auto in Gettysburg, PA. (AP Photo)

at age 83, he was one of the last of the nearly 100 guides who still carried his clients around the field in a horse-drawn buggy.

SOURCES:  
[www.twincities.com/ci\\_23536294/gettysburg-residents-seek-black-history-museum](http://www.twincities.com/ci_23536294/gettysburg-residents-seek-black-history-museum)

The Penn Home was at 231 West High Street. As the first African-American battlefield guide, Reverend William F. Penn was a well known citizen and leader. At the time of his death in 1925



# ALBG Scholars Banquet

On Friday, April 17, 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.



teaches in the departments of History and Africana Studies. Scott is committed to telling the stories of people historically overlooked or marginalized, and his current research examines how places like the Gettysburg battlefield can center African Americans and slavery within public narratives. A dedicated scholar-activist, he engages both academic and public audiences through publications, lectures, and conversations with visitors to the battlefield. Dr. Hancock is a member of Gettysburg History's Black History Committee. 🌈

**Dr. Scott Hancock** is a historian and educator whose work explores how African Americans have shaped and been shaped by American law and historical memory. After 14 years working with teenagers in crisis, he earned his Ph.D. in Early American History in 1999 and joined the faculty at Gettysburg College, where he

# McAllister Mill Underground Railroad Tour

Historic Gettysburg Adams County will be conducting tours of the McAllister Mill Underground Railroad site beginning May 3<sup>rd</sup>. LBG Deb Novotny will be 1 of 4 tour leaders. For more information see HGAC website at [hgaconline.org](http://hgaconline.org). 🌈

# NPS WINTER LECTURE SERIES

Winter Lectures returned with LBG Christina Moon kicking off this year's programs. In her presentation "Unfinished Work: Gettysburg Veterans and the Violent Struggle for Reconstruction in Louisiana", she examined how Gettysburg veterans experienced the fighting shift from the battlefield to the streets of the South. She described the horrors of the battles over civil rights and the violence that played out across Louisiana's fractured Reconstruction landscape. Lectures are free on Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 in the Visitor Center. Look for LBG Billy Griffith on February 22nd with "The Boy Major: Joseph W. Latimer in the American Civil War", and closing the Winter Lecture series on March 14th (rescheduled from January 25) is LBG Richard Goedkoop, with "A Fragment Spared by Time – 1938 Reunion". If you miss a lecture, you can watch them online at (<https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/winter-lecture-series-2026>). 🌈

## BOOK REVIEW: "GETTYSBURG: THE TIDE TURNS"

Contributed by LBG Therese Orr

As Chair of the Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable's Distinguished Book Award Committee, it is my task to find books each year regarding the battle, the civilians, and the establishment/preservation of the park for us to review. This year, we are reviewing books published in 2025.

We look for well-researched and well-documented books with either new scholarship or a new look at existing scholarship. Our goal is to find books that appeal to the long-time student of the Gettysburg Campaign,

etc., not one that would appeal to a novice.

Sometimes the best book stands out above the others. Sometimes we have a tough choice between two books. Some books are too basic. Sometimes we question the scholarship, as it differs from the usual. "Gettysburg: The Tide Turns" by Bruce Chadwick, in my opinion, falls into a category all its own. It is so rife with factual errors and misinterpretations that it was not worth the time I spent reading it. The inside of the dust jacket proclaims that this book is

the "definitive oral history of the battle". I respectfully disagree! While it is full of diary entries, letters and newspaper reports, the context and analysis of the oral history is oftentimes greatly flawed. I question whether the author ever visited Gettysburg.

The errors begin with the first paragraph of the introduction: "A train link ran from Harrisburg to Gettysburg, but it had been shut down." The Gettysburg and Harrisburg Railroad was not open until 1884. The book goes downhill from there. I have listed below some of the more outrageous statements Chadwick made.

- Meade did not have much experience in battles against the best Southern armies.
- When Hooker learned that Lee crossed the Potomac he ordered his men to do so. But it was the wrong time of year. It was hot - blazing hot - when the Union forces made the crossing.
- Stuart had reconnoitered the passes in the Blue Ridge Mountains. He wrote Lee a note saying that the job was done and he now wanted to ramble about the area, keeping an eye on Meade's army [Meade was not yet in command] while checking out more passes and roads.
- Lee decided to march to Cashtown, to get supplies, mass his troops and start a march toward Harrisburg.
- Meade looked at a map of Pennsylvania and saw Gettysburg. He decided to march his 100,000-man army there. Meade's army was all in one place, Lee's was not. So, Lee ordered his scattered forces to slow down in some places and speed up in others, so that within a few days they would all be together.

see BOOK REVIEW continued on pg. 8

## 2026 Fall Seminar:

### From the Peach Orchard to the Bryan Farm: The Fighting on July 2, 1863

The 2026 Fall Seminar will be held from **Friday, November 6 – Sunday, November 8**. The fee has not yet been determined.

On Friday, November 6th the opening speaker at the Dobbin House dinner will be Licensed Battlefield Guide Jim Hessler speaking on "*Sickles' and Longstreet's Preparations and Action on July 2, 1863.*"

There will be four battle walks each lasting approximately 90 minutes on Saturday:

- LBG Ralph Siegel will present "*Artillery Deployment and Performance from the Peach Orchard to the Bryan Farm*"
- LBG Tom Clark will present "*Kershaw's Brigade Attacks the Peach Orchard Area and the Union Defense*"
- LBG Lewis Trott will present "*Barksdale's Brigade Attack and the Union Defense*"
- LBG Chris Bagley will present "*Wofford's Brigade Attack and the Union Defense*"

There will be two battle walks each lasting approximately 90 minutes on Sunday:

- LBG Phil Muskett will present "*Berdan's Fight with Wilcox's Brigade plus Wilcox's Brigade and Lang's Brigade Attack and the Union Defense*"
- LBG Paul Bailey will present "*Wright's Brigade and Posey's Brigade Attack and the Union Defense*" 🎖️

## Guide Speaking Engagements

**CHUCK REBESCO:** On January 11th I spoke to the meeting of the Northwest Indiana CWRT in Crown Point IN. About a dozen hardy (and hearty) souls attended the meeting to discuss "*Leading the Way: Preservation of the Gettysburg Battlefield*". The group had interesting questions (very few dozed!) and were particularly interested in learning about the military usage of the park, including the POW experience.

February 27th, 2026: I will be at the Southwest Suburban Chicago CWRT in Mokena, Illinois. The topic is "*Sam Carroll and His Gibraltar Brigade.*"

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

## 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.

## WEBSTER STORY LINKS GETTYSBURG AND SECOND MANASSAS

Contributed by Associate Member Robert Swift

*“Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable”*

This phrase inscribed in stone links a regimental monument at Gettysburg, a marker to a fallen hero at Second Manassas and a statue to an antebellum statesman in Washington.

The words were spoken by Massachusetts Senator Daniel Webster on the Senate floor in 1830 during the Webster-Hayne debate over states’ rights and nullifying federal laws.

South Carolinian Robert Hayne argued a state can nullify laws like those levying tariffs they consider unconstitutional. Webster portrayed the Union as single indivisible nation.

The Webster-Hayne debate was a signpost on the road to disunion thirty years later.

Webster ended his oration with the rousing phrase cited above. It struck a chord with popular sentiment in the North.

Webster was part of the Great Senate Triumvirate with Clay and Calhoun that brought the Compromise of 1850 and, many think, delayed the Civil War for a decade.

He is part of folklore now with his oratorical powers, devotion to the Union and role in a 1930’s story as a lawyer defending a farmer who sold his soul to the devil.

One finds few images at Gettysburg of pre-Civil War politicians, Lincoln’s reference to forefathers duly noted.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry Regiment monu-

ment at Doubleday Avenue on Oak Ridge is something special in this regard.

The monument evokes both a historic legacy and tragedy.



12<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Monument on Oak Ridge

The 12<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts was known as the Webster Regiment in honor of Daniel Webster and his son, Col. Fletcher Webster, who recruited and led the regiment for two years.

The father and son were close in life. When Daniel served as Secretary of State, Fletcher was his assistant.

They died a decade apart. Daniel in 1852 and Fletcher at Second Manassas in 1862.

The first thing you notice approaching the 12<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts monument is a head and shoulder bust relief of the senator. A shrouded flag is draped above it and a cluster of oak leaves below.

Webster’s 1830 quote encircles the bust.

An empty cartridge case at the monument’s base symbolizes the regiment running out of ammunition on July 1, 1863.

On the rear flanks are the inscriptions “Webster 1861 and Bates 1864” referring to

Fletcher and his successor, Col. James Bates, wounded at Gettysburg but returning later to the active duty.

On July 1, 1863, the 12<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts was in a tight spot on Oak Ridge.

The soldiers crouched behind a stone wall and poured murderous fire into Gen. Alfred Iverson’s advancing North Carolinians.

The 12<sup>th</sup> eventually ran out of ammunition and held its position with bayonets. The regiment then retreated and formed part of the Union line on Cemetery Ridge during the second and third days.

On Aug. 30, 1862, the 12<sup>th</sup> was also in a tight spot.

The regiment was on Chinn Ridge during the Battle of Second Manassas with Fletcher Webster commanding.

The 12<sup>th</sup> and others attempted to block a counter-attack by Confederate Gen. James Longstreet, but were overrun by Longstreet’s superior numbers.

Fletcher was struck by a bullet in the chest in late afternoon. Ludwell Hutchinson, a Virginia soldier, gave the mortally wounded Fletcher water as the Confederates advanced.

Fletcher in turn asked Hutchinson to give his wallet to his family, which he eventually did.

see *WEBSTER* cont. on page 8



## FROM THE LIBRARY

Contributed by LBG Phil Muskett, Librarian

I want to thank Mike Strong for his years of dedication and work in the library. In his tenure, we have expanded our library to over 4000 items. It is a lot of work. When you see him, thank him for his time.

Since starting my role as Librarian, I am reviewing folders, looking where things are stored to get a better understanding of where things are located, and getting an idea on the library organization.

A few housekeeping notes from the Librarian.

If you drop off books for donations, please let me know. We have an internal library policy, where we like

to send out thank you cards to those who donate books. Currently we have about 10 boxes of books that are in the library, that we do not know who brought them. If you dropped them off, please let me know.

I also reviewed the Diorama building key folder. If you are not a member of the ALBG, you will need to bring the key back to me, until you rejoin.

Next book sale is probably going to be April 16 through the 23.

If you have questions concerning the library, please reach out to me at [philmuskett@comcast.net](mailto:philmuskett@comcast.net). 📖

BANQUET continued from page 3

visitors that is unmatched at many historic sites. He mentioned a recent conference call with representatives from the Sekigahara battlefield in Japan – specifically their desire to model their interpretation services after the Guide program at Gettysburg.

Paul Bauserman accepted his awards and spoke of a recent encounter which moved him – a man who remembered him from an elementary school field trip years ago. Dave Richards mentioned memories of Glenn Shields, a Guide who had spoken with civil war veterans, teaching him on the winter schedule. Dave recalled Charlie Fennell as the first Guide he ever met during orientation. Jeff Kelly spoke of a tour he would never forget – where he resisted but eventually surrendered to a visitor’s request to lie down in the grass among the dead in the Soldiers National Cemetery. Dave Weaver reminded us of many things that have changed since 1986 on the battlefield. He reminded us that when the five Guides honored began their career, the Peace Memorial had a lamp instead of a flame. He mentioned Howard Koser and “Skip” Wensyl as Guides who mentored him as a young man. Charlie Fennell could not attend but wrote that when he took his exam in 1984, he did not know anyone in the room. He said “What I have learned in 40 years is that it’s not about how much you know but the connections you make with the people you meet,” and that many of those strangers from the beginning are now good friends.

Several of the Guides from the most recent class were in attendance. Jim Sandberg, Judy Morley, and Eric Burroughs were introduced and given challenge coins. Andie Donahue won the raffle, a stained-glass brigade flag donated by Jessie Wheedleton.

Special thanks to Steve Slaughter for once again volunteering as emcee, and to the servers at the Dobbin House for their wonderful hospitality. Thanks to all who attended, and sorry to miss the folks who had to change plans due to the weather. We hope to continue this tradition in the future, and are grateful to our colleagues who continue to share their knowledge and love of Gettysburg after so many years. 🎉



Legacy Plaque



Dave Richards - Dave Weaver - Jeff Kelly - Paul Bauserman



Dave Richards and Howie Frankenfield



Dave and Andy Donohue and Denny Conroy



2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the beginning of our country as an independent nation. Across the country, there will be commemorations of major historical events, allowing us to reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead to the future we want to create for the next generation. This series will commemorate some of the lesser-known but no less important events that shaped the pre- and post-battle Gettysburg and surrounding areas.

**John Hanson 'Hance' Steelman  
"First Settler in the Valley"**

John Hanson Steelman was born near Gray's Ferry on the Schuylkill River in 1655. Steelman was a fur trader who used his proficiency in Indian languages to act as an interpreter for newly arriving colonists such as William Penn. Steelman signed as a witness to the treaty between Penn and the Susquehannocks in 1701, ceding Susquehannocks lands along the Potomac River to the English in return for protection and trade privileges.

While Steelman lived at Elk Landing (his stone house still stands in Elkton, MD), he conducted most of his trading with natives in Pennsylvania without a trader's license, so Penn seized Steelman's goods. This, along with natives moving further

west, encouraged Steelman to relocate in 1718, becoming the first settler in today's York, Adams, Cumberland, and Franklin Counties.

In 1737, he was one of the signers of the infamous Walking Purchase treaty between Pennsylvania and the Lenape (Delaware) Indians. Penn's family produced a deed claiming the Lenape had already been paid for land extending as far west as a man could walk in a day and a half, but the Penns hadn't marked the land until now. Using cleared paths and sprinters, they secured (or stole) 1.2 million acres. In 1740, Steelman testified for the Penn family in the Penn-Calvert boundary dispute with Maryland. His testimony focused on the Susquehannock fort, a supposed landmark that defined the southern border of Pennsylvania. Steelman died in Adams County in 1749, at the age of 94. Find the historical marker on Steelman Marker Road, Liberty Township, Adams County, near the Maryland State Line.

**Mary Jemison**

Thomas and Jane Jemison immigrated to America; along the way, their daughter Mary was born sometime in 1742-43. She spent 15 years living on a farm 10 miles north of modern Gettysburg. In 1758, at the age of 15, Mary and her family were attacked by the Shawnees, who were aiding the French during the Seven Years' War.

"Father was shaving an axe-helve at the side of the house; mother was making preparations for breakfast; my

two oldest brothers were at work near the barn; and the little ones, with myself, and the neighborhood woman and her three children, were in the house. Breakfast was not yet ready, when we were alarmed by the discharge of a number of guns, that seem to be near. Mother and the woman, almost fainted at the report, and every one trembled with fear. On opening the door, a man and horse lay dead, near the house, having just been shot by the Indians. They first secured my father, and then rushed into the house, and without the least resistance, made prisoners of my mother, Robert, Matthew, Betsey, the woman and her three children, and myself, and then commenced plundering. The party that took us consisted of 6 Indians, and 4 Frenchman. Having taken as many provisions as they could carry, they set out with their prisoners, in great haste."

After several days of marching through the frontier, Mary was separated from her family and given moccasins. Later, she described seeing her mother's red hair on one of the scalps the Shawnees were cleaning. The Shawnees took her to Fort Duquesne. There, she was adopted by two kind,



Taking of Mary Jemison

good-natured Seneca women, married, and raised children. Like most of her time, she suffered the loss of her

see AMERICA 250 cont. on pg. 8

**KUDOS TO PARK MAINTENANCE STAFF**

Park Maintenance responded quickly to counter two hazards: one man-made and one natural. First, in mid-January several monuments were vandalized with oil-based substances. Maintenance staff applied a special poultice designed to pull the oil out of the Pennsylvania Memorial, Pennsylvania Independent Batteries C & F monument, the right flank marker of the 6th Maine Battery and the left flank marker of the 111th New York Infantry. Second, Winter Storm Fern covered the battlefield with close to a foot of snow and sleet. Maintenance staff braved the conditions to get the roads cleared quickly. One incident occurred when a pickup truck slid off the north side of the Chambersburg Pike just east of the Reynolds Monument, damaging a wooden fence. 🧊

**Road Clean-up Dates for 2026**

The 2026 Emmitsburg Road trash pickup dates will take place on the following Wednesdays at 5:00 PM:

- April 15
- June 24
- August 19
- October 14

Meet at the 105PA monument. 🧊

BOOK REVIEW *cont. from page 4*

- The author places Meade and the Army of the Potomac in the Gettysburg area on June 30. Pettigrew arrived in the area late on June 30; his scouts told him that Buford's cavalry was already there.
- The largest business in Gettysburg was a shoe factory.
- As the author moves to July 1, he has Buford and Pettigrew arriving on July 1 [after implying previously that this occurred the day before]. Buford discovered that Early's men had just left Gettysburg and he considered following them, but discovered that Hill's Corps was in Cashtown.
- After Reynolds and Buford met that morning, Reynolds was apparently shot as he rode off to advise other Union officers in the area. Later he states that Reynolds was shot shortly after he arrived with his men.
- The Union army occupied the top of Seminary Ridge and Lee's men and cannons occupied the base of the ridge. Meade was at the top of the hill and did not know what to do with Lee at the bottom.
- Longstreet pleaded for a retreat from Gettysburg on the morning of July 1, when he was supposed to be ready to attack first thing that morning.
- By the time of the fighting on July 1, the Union fishhook was already formed, and Lee's cannons were arrayed along Seminary Ridge.
- BG Barlow commanded the 61NY at Gettysburg. [This was Barlow's first command at the beginning of his service.]
- The Iron Brigade was commanded by BG Gibbon at Gettysburg.
- Refers to MG Doubleday as a Colonel.
- Longstreet put his hat on a sword and led Barksdale's men to the Peach Orchard, then he went to Cemetery Hill to lead the attack there.
- Meade ordered divisions to the Peach Orchard. They lost their way, but ended up at the Peach Orchard, Devil's Den and the Wheatfield.
- BG Warren ordered Hazlett to Little Round Top; they were exposed to Confederate fire the whole way. Warren was concerned about COL Chamberlain's inexperience.
- Malbone Watson was in the Wheatfield without any infantry support. Cannons from different regiments were brought to the Wheatfield. The 1MN was also in the Wheatfield.

After page 113, I could not read any further.

The author listed a bibliography, but none of the quotes from diaries, letters or newspaper articles had their source or even a date. Many times, they were clearly out of chronological order, and the analysis was out of context. The Official Records were not listed as a source. Even the photographs he included had issues:

- The Lincoln photo was dated 1869.
- Hooker and McClellan are included, but they are only mentioned briefly in the beginning.
- There are five maps; two of them are the Elliott burial maps.

- A picture of massive cannonballs stacked at Castle Pinckney was included.
- There was a photo of the supposed gun and gunners that repulsed Pickett.
- The photo of gravestones that are identified as at Soldiers National Cemetery, if they truly are, are not the Civil War graves.
- The 1MA monument on the Emmitsburg Road is identified as Perry's Florida Brigade.

If you are looking for an alternate reality book on Gettysburg, you might like this one. Otherwise, in my opinion this book is a waste of time and money. 🍷

WEBSTER *cont. from page 5*

Fletcher wrote a prophetic letter to his wife that very morning, saying it could be his last letter since he wouldn't spare himself in the pending battle.

He was laid to a hero's rest in Boston.

And in 1914, Fletcher's aging comrades went to Chinn Ridge and dedicated a monument at the spot where he fell.

The bronze plaque says: "He gave his life for the principles laid down by his father Daniel Webster. Liberty and union, now and forever, one and inseparable".

The National Park Service has an interpretive marker with a drawing of Fletcher on this deceptively peaceful ridge.

In 1900 the Daniel Webster Memorial was dedicated at Scott Circle in Washington D.C. with the 1830 quote inscribed on the statue. 🍷

RIGHT: Fletcher Webster Plaque at Manassas

AMERICA 250 *continued from page 7*

Mary Jemison Statue

husband and children, and then the Revolutionary War came. Her 2nd husband, Hiokatoo, served with British troops during the capture of Fort Freeland. In 1825, when the Seneca were forced to sell their land to the white settlers, Mary stayed on her land. In 1831, she moved to the Indian reservation at Buffalo Creek, where she died in 1833.

The Statue of Mary Jemison, by H.K. Bush-Brown, in Castile, N.Y. marks the final resting place. A statue of Mary Jemison at St. Ignatius Loyola Church in Orrtanna, Pa. is near the location of her capture. (Mary Jemison was mentioned in Ken Burn's documentary on "The American Revolution.") 🍷

