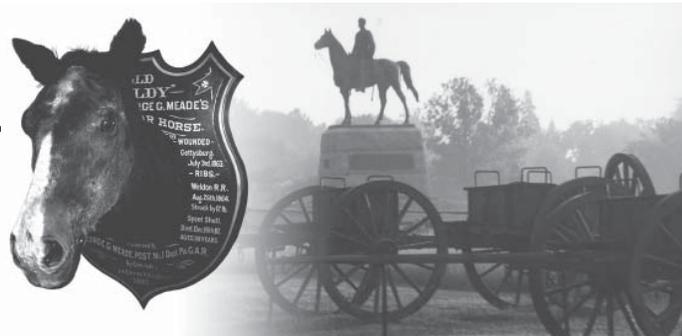
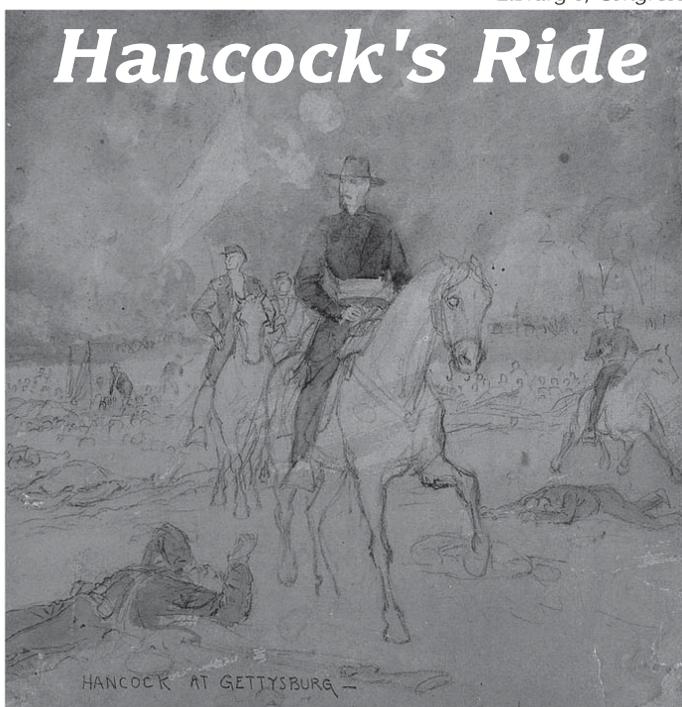


# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia



July 10, 2008, The One Hundred and Forty-Eighth Year of the Civil War

Library of Congress



## at the July 10th meeting of Old Baldy CWRT.

**July 3rd, 1863; Gettysburg, Pa.** After Lee's successes on the first two days of battle, he was impelled to continue the battle on the third. Having assailed both of Meade's extreme wings, and having assessed that most of the Federal troops were amassed there, the bold Confederate commander determined to make a massive frontal assault on the Union center. Some 15,000 men would be hurled forward in what would famously be known as "*Pickett's Charge*". After morning attacks on Culp's Hill, General Hancock, with a soldier's sense of the massed attack he was certain would be coming, took action to strengthen his position in the center of the Union line. Then, as Lee's great cannonade opened, he rode up and down the shell-swept crest of Cemetery Ridge, directing troops to reposition, issuing orders to secure sections of the field, and reaf-

*Continued on page 2*

## President's Message

From all reports, I missed a truly special June meeting with our special guest **Terry Winschel**, from Vicksburg National Military Park. "Duty called" with one of my other jobs and I was busy with the negotiations of the contract between the City of Philadelphia and DC47. (And as I write this on June 19, and likely as you read it in early July, those negotiations are likely still on-going!)

Not too long ago I got a note from my long-time friend **Blake Magner**, former OBCWRT President and book review editor of *The Civil War News*. Blake, of course, has written extensively about the Civil War and the battle of Gettysburg in particular, and was reminding me and a few other folks that this July 3, was the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the John Gibbon Monument at Gettysburg National Military Park.

General Gibbon was, of course, a "native son" of Philadelphia, having been born on the Holmesburg-section of the city on April 20, 1827. The son of a physician, his family moved to North Carolina when he was ten, and it was from there that he was appointed to the United States Military Academy, where he graduated in 1847. After serving in the Mexican War without seeing combat, Florida's Seminole War he was appointed an instructor of artillery at West Point where he wrote *The Artillerist's Manual*, an important work used by both sides in the upcoming war. The outbreak of the Civil War found Gibbon on the frontier in Utah, serving as Captain of Battery B, Fourth U.S. Artillery.

Gibbon was a battle-hardened veteran by July 3, 1863. That morning he took a scrap of paper from a notebook he carried and jotted a brief message to his wife in which he mentioned that their old friend John Reynolds and Stephen Weed had been killed in the fighting during the previous two days. He said that "God has been good in one dear Mama in protecting me from so many dangers." Gibbon closed the note by requesting that his wife "Kiss the dear children for me & write often." (This letter was published for the first time as part of an article that Blake and I wrote for *Gettysburg Magazine*, published in Issue 13, July 1995, titled "John Gibbon: The Man and the Monument." The ar-

*Continued on page 2*

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

The Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum will close its doors on August 2, 2008. The collection will be put in storage until the new home - the First Bank building at 3rd and Chestnut - is ready (in about two years) to open.

The Old Baldy CWRT will meet at the Union League starting the second Thursday September 11, 2008. THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN AUGUST!

firing for all his men to stand their ground as they could see that he stood with them.

Join us on Thursday, July 10th at the next meeting of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table, when **Dave Wieck** gives us a blow-by-blow description of Hancock's actions along the Union lines before and during Pickett's Charge, and how the famous "Hancock's Ride" may have not only turned back the Confederates at High Tide, but may well have saved much more in the broader picture of the War. Dave Wieck is co-author of the acclaimed "The Battle Between the Farm Lanes" with **Dave Shultz**, and editor of more than a score of books, including a dozen on the

Civil War. A government analyst, Dave lives with his family and several "presidential" pets in the Northern Liberties section of Philadelphia, the nation's first capital and home of architect and Medal-of-Honor winner Frank Furness, of whom Dave has written an article in the current issue of "North & South" Magazine.

*Be sure to join us on Thursday, July 10 for this stirring and informative presentation of one of the key aspects of the Battle of Gettysburg. The meeting starts at 7:30pm at the Museum at 1805 Pine Street. If you can, join us at 5:30 as we head out to the "Marathon Grille" for a bite to eat before the meeting. See you there!*

*Harry P. Jenkins, Program Chairman*

ticle is available on the internet.) Of course hours later the great "Pickett's Charge" was directed at Gibbon's Division along Cemetery Ridge. During that assault Gibbon was carried off the field with a grievous wound to the shoulder.

It took nearly 125-years for Gibbon to be recognized with a monument on the field at Gettysburg, and the story of the monument (well-told by Blake in the above-mentioned Gettysburg Magazine article) takes almost as long to tell as that of the battle itself. It was through the hard work and dedication of a number of few individuals such as the late **Judge John Reilly, Blake Magner, Mike Cavanaugh, Brian Pohanka, and Pat Purcell** and others of the John Gibbon Memorial Committee that the monument came to fruition. (I can honestly say that it is one of the proudest things that I have been associated with and I never go to Gettysburg without stopping at the monument without stopping to pay my respects.)

So, back to Blake's note about the Gibbon monument.... Blake reminded us that the anniversary of the dedication

was coming up and he said that he was planning on going out to the Park to pay his respects on July 3rd at 10 o'clock, the exact 20th anniversary of the dedication. I was going to break one of my cardinal rules and actually visit Gettysburg in July - something I haven't done since I moved away from the place in 1983! (The crowds are too much and I've become way too much of a curmudgeon for the idiots....) But, alas, I have an appointment that day to get shots for an overseas trip to Guadalcanal (yes, THAT Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands) that Mike Cavanaugh and I are taking in August and July 3rd is the only day the doctor could get me in for the shots! So I figure it's fate - I need to remember General Gibbon in my own quiet way that day. Rest assured I will....

As always, I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting!

*Be well!*

*Steven J. Wright, President*

## ***A Tragedy of Errors: Failure of the Confederate High Command in the Defense of Vicksburg***



**Terry Winschel**



*Photos Don Wiles*



Vicksburg National Military Park Historian **Terry Winschel** explained the failure of the Confederate high command to achieve unity during the Vicksburg campaign. Focusing his discussion on the three men most responsible for the defense of Vicksburg—President Jefferson Davis, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, and Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton, Terry explained their philosophy and actions prior to and during the campaign and demonstrate how indecision and the lack of military planning, experience and egos sealed the doom of the city.

This was another fine presentation done by a fine gentleman that had us look at the battle of Vicksburg in a different venue. Terry will always be welcomed back to Old Baldy.

# Gettysburg Field Despoiled Ruthless Vandalism in Running the Electric Road.

**Commissioner Batchelder Sends a Preliminary Report to the Secretary of War  
—Blasting Out Rocks Which Marked Important Spots in the Famous Battleground—Cutting Lines Through Scenes of Some of the Most Desperate Encounters  
—Damage Irreparable**

*The New York Times* – Published: June 17, 1893  
Copyright- The New York Times

*Continued from the June Issue*

“The boulders which covered the combatants in the desperate engagement between the Fourth Maine and the Fortieth New-York of the Union Army and the Forty-fourth Alabama and the right of Benning’s brigade of the Confederate Army are already blasted, and the fragments broken under the hammer are covered with earth to form a roadbed. And it is this locality which has been turned into a park to which cheap excursions are to be run from Baltimore and other cities.

“This is the most wild and picturesque section of the field. For the distance of over one mile before reaching this locality, the road cuts ruthlessly through the scene of some of the most desperate encounters of the battle in which De Trobriand’s, Tilton’s Sweitzer’s, Zook’s, Kelly’s, Cross’s, and Ward’s Union brigades and Kershaw’s, Semmes’s, Wofford’s, and Anderson’s and Robertson’s Confederate brigades contended for hours.

“The railway cuts straight through lines of battle, forest trees are leveled, boulders and ledges are blasted, streams are bridged, and the whole character of the field is changed, and every hour the work of devastation goes on.

After leaving the Devil’s Den and the Valley of Death, the road will climb around the western and northern face of Little Round Top, disfiguring its slopes by cuts and fills of from three to ten feet. Reaching the summit, it will descend the eastern slope to the dancehouse.

This entire route through the ravine near the Wheat Field and around the Devil’s Den, up through the Valley of Death, a distance of about two miles, may be avoided by a cut-off of about a half a mile over the Wheat Field Road, and if a right of way of fifty rods can be secured from the land syndicate, the cut over Little Round Top may be avoided. Work is about to be commenced on Little Round Top.

“From the dancehouse the electric road follows the route of the Reading branch railroad toward town to Hancock Station, where it turns to the right across the line of battle of Stannard’s Vermont brigade, over the marked position of Weir’s Battery (C, Fifth United States Artillery,) to Hancock Avenue, immediately in front of the Second Army Corps, along which it passes over the advanced positions of thirty-eight Confederate regiments which comprised Longstreet’s assault on the third day, and buries beneath its track the spot where Gen. Garnett was killed.

“I spent several days with Mr. Hopper and his friends negotiating with him to abandon this Second Corps line



*Colonel John Batchelder and his wife at Devil’s Den in 1890  
— GNMP*

(on which he contemplates the erection of a station 40 feet long in front of the Second Corps position) for the branch railroad and Emmittsburg Road. But he has since repudiated his agreement and resumed operations on that front. From the right of the Second Corps the route turns

back to the Taneytown Road, down which it runs to the southwest corner of the National Cemetery, where, turning into the field to the left, it passes around the cemetery to the Baltimore Turnpike, on which it returns to town, passing the cemetery gates.

“The damage already committed by the electric road is very great and can never be repaired, but the present desecration is but the commencement of what may be done if this company is allowed to invade other sections of the battlefield. Is it not practicable to stop this wanton destruction of one of the most important historical spots in the country until the Government can decide its duty and its powers? Every hour the most flagrant depredations are committed which can never be repaired, and if this is allowed to be continued while the Government is deliberating the injury will be irreparable.

“I respectfully urge that prompt measures be taken to suppress operations on the battlefield proper until the Government has time to determine the course it will pursue. The whole country demands it and public opinion will sustain you in doing it.

“It should be understood that debarring the electric railroad from the battlefield (except unimportant crossings where there was no fighting) will not prevent its operation in the streets of Gettysburg or over the highways which reach all the important features of the field without desecrating those sections made historic by the blood of men. In a few instances it is important that short sections of the battlefield be crossed by the road, but it should be under the direction of the battlefield commission.”

Acting Secretary Grant referred this report and all the papers connected with the work on the Gettysburg battlefield to Col. Lieber, the acting Judge Advocate General, “for his examination and opinion as to what authority the War Department has now or may have after July 1 to prevent or interfere with the cutting of the liens by the railroad company. Attention is invited to the act of the Pennsylvania Legislature of two years ago giving the Government authority to condemn land, &c., and also to the general authority granted by Congress to the War Department to condemn land for national cemeteries.”

*Thanks to Ginny Gage for Preparing the Article*

## Today in Civil War History



Photo Don Wiles

Harper's Weekly

### Wednesday July 10, 1861 Rosecrans Readies Regiments' Rally

Finally deciding that he had enough manpower, Gen. George McClellan directed Gen. William Rosecrans to attack the Confederate forces of Robert S. Garnett at Laurel Hill and Rich Mountain. With three brigades of infantry as well as a cavalry detachment, Rosecrans' force greatly outnumbered their opponents. However, the attack was slowed by extremely uneven land and unfamiliar roadways, and the actual battle wound up being delayed a day.

### Thursday, July 10, 1862 Guntown Gathering Garners Greetings

This was an odd war in many ways, with officers on opposite sides who had been roommates at West Point, not to mention troops who on occasions had neighbors and even family members among the ranks of the opposition. In consequence of this came meetings like one today in Guntown, Miss. It was supposed to be a Federal "expedition", but a flag of truce came out and the afternoon was spent socializing, discussing issues, and trading newspapers.

### Friday July 10, 1863 Wicked Wagner Warfare Waged

In Charleston Harbor there is a small, fairly insignificant spit of land called Morris Island. On this island were some guns, and this installation was named after a fellow known as Wagner. It is often referred to as Fort Wagner, but it is more properly known as Battery Wagner as it was not surrounded by walls. It might as well have been, though—today began an attack on this installation which would continue for months. The island was the key to the defense of the South Carolina coast, and the battle would be fierce.

### Sunday July 10, 1864 Early Entrance Excites Emotions

Fear, panic and a great desire to be elsewhere gripped residents of Washington, D.C. today. Included among the relocation victims were Abraham and Mary Lincoln, who normally spent the summer at the Soldier's Home but were summoned back to the White House as the Confederate forces of Jubal Early approached the outer suburbs. Fighting flared in Rockville and Gunpowder Ridge, as Lew Wallace continued to defend with raw recruits, 100-day men, and convalescent veterans.

[www.civilwarinteractive.com](http://www.civilwarinteractive.com)

# Happy Birthday... Ed Bearss

## Happy 85th Birthday to our National Treasure... Ed Bearss!

At the annual Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College on Thursday June 26, Ed celebrated his 85th birthday. Gabor Boritt, Director of the Institute, and his friends arranged for a Marine color guard to salute Ed. After playing the National Anthem and the Marine Hymn over 400 attendees sang Happy Birthday to Ed.

When offered the microphone to say a few words Ed said "I almost got choked up, but being a Marine...". Ed saluted the Color Guard and thanked them for their service to their country. A cake was cut and Ed when on with his tour of Pickett's Charge for the next 4 hours.

Ed salutes the Marine Color Guard



Many Happy returns to that Image we all know when we go on a Civil War tour with Ed.



Photos Don Wiles



Ed Bearss

Gabor Boritt

## New Monument to honor Custer and Churchill at Hunterstown/Gettysburg



Photos Don Wiles

The dedication of the new Hunterstown Monument honoring Norvell Churchill and Brigadier General George Armstrong Custer. The Churchill Family will be coming to Gettysburg/Hunterstown for this event and will be bringing the family sword with them!

145th Anniversary of the Battle of Hunterstown Monument Dedication and 4th Annual Walking Tour.

### July 2nd, 2008 The Historic Tate Farm Hunterstown, Pennsylvania

Monument Dedication - 11AM  
Roger and Laurie Harding, Co-Founders,  
Hunterstown Historical Society  
George Zepik, Chaplain, Grand Rapids  
Troy Harman, NPS Ranger and Historian  
Mike Vallone, Gettysburg Battlefield Guide  
Linda Cleveland, Local Historian  
Dave Broene, Grand Rapids Roundtable  
Pat Stephens, Great-Granddaughter of Norvell Churchill  
The Churchill Family  
Stephen Alexander, Custer Re-enactor  
Larry & Connie Clowers,  
U. S. Grant & Julia Grant Re-enactors  
US Congressman Todd Platts  
Dan Moul, Pa Stae Representative  
David Petrucci, Author  
Dick Hamilton, Author  
Michael F. Nugent, Author  
Frank Meredith, Author  
Jared Frederick, Artist  
Edwin L. Green, Artist, Williamsburg, VA  
Panoramic Artist, Jim Phelps, Lexington, VA will be on hand to  
"Photo Document" this historic event.  
Armor Guard and Gun Salute Michigan re-enactors.

[www.hunterstown1863.com](http://www.hunterstown1863.com)

## Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2008/2009

July 10, 2008 - Thursday

### "Hancock's Ride"

**Gettysburg hangs in the balance; Hancock's brilliance tips that balance.**

Mr. David Wieck

August 14, 2008 - Thursday

### "Cancelled"

**In preparation for the move to the new location, the Museum officially closes August 2, 2008**

September 11, 2008 - Thursday

It is our misfortune to learn that due to work obligations owing to a new trial

### Historian/Author Mr. Gordon Rhea

will be unable to be our guest presenter at our September meeting. We hope that he will be able to re-schedule with us in the near future.

*However... we are pursuing another Guest Speaker for this, our first of a series of Old Baldy Meetings to be held at the Union League.*

*Note on you calendar Future Dates for Meetings at the*

### Union League

**140 South Broad St., Philadelphia, PA**

October 9, 2008 - Thursday

November 13, 2008 - Thursday

December 11, 2008 - Thursday

January 8, 2009 - Thursday

Further information to be provided.

**All meetings, unless otherwise noted, begin at 7:30 PM**

**Questions to Harry Jenkins at 856-428-8773 or [hj3bama@comcast.net](mailto:hj3bama@comcast.net)**

## Hunterstown: North Cavalry Field of Gettysburg

*By Troy Harman,  
National Park Ranger  
and Historian  
Gettysburg National Parks Service*

Hunterstown Cavalry Battlefield, also known as North Cavalry Field, is a National Shrine waiting to be fully appreciated and brought into the fold of sacred places visited regularly by patrons of Gettysburg National Military Park. Fields and barns to either side of the Hunterstown road, just to the south of old town square mark the site of a significant cavalry fight waged there after 4:00 PM on July 2, 1863. Union participants involved were Michigan Troopers under Brigadier General George Armstrong Custer versus the Confederacy's famous Cobb's Georgia Legion, with support from Phillips Georgia Legion, the 2nd South Carolina Cavalry and 1st North Carolina Cavalry. They were under the overall direction of the capable Brigadier

Continued from page 5 - Hunterstown

General Wade Hampton, who latter replaced J.E.B. Stuart as Robert E. Lee's cavalry chieftain.

Lines of battle were established a mile apart with Custer's men establishing their artillery at Felty-Tate Ridge on



An area of the Hunterstown Battlefield – Photo Don Wiles

the northern end, to oppose Hampton's rebel guns atop Brinkerhoff's Ridge directly south. In the valley between, a fierce hand-to-hand fight would ensue across the J.G. Gilbert and J. Felty Farms, intact to the present day. It began with Custer ordering elements of the 6th and 7th Michigan cavalry to dismount and move south on foot beyond and below the ridge, along both sides of the Hunterstown Road. Concealed by fields carpeted with ripe golden wheat, the Michigan troopers waded inconspicuously forward to the Felty Farm where some of their best

was impossible for more than one company to move at a gallop. Recognizing this, Custer would use Company A as a small shock force to establish contact with southern troopers. After hitting them hard to get their ire up, he retreated intentionally drawing them back north to the prepared ambush waiting east and west of the Hunterstown Road at Felty's barn. Custer, a new brigadier nearly lost his life in the initial charge in front of the Gilbert farm, where Confederates resisted. If it had not been for Norville Churchill's timely rescue of Custer, whisking him out of harm's way and onto his horse, later Indian Wars on Western Plains may have taken on a different complexion.

In Kentucky Derby fashion, the horses of Cobb's Legion raced in the summer air nose to tail with Company A, for a quarter mile up the narrow Hunterstown Road, all-the-while bouncing between the fences which hemmed them in like a bowling alley. So caught up in the chase were the Georgians, that they fell like a hungry mouse right into the trap

which was released on them as soon as Union cavalry cleared the waiting crossfire. Not being able to stop their horses in time, several Confederates raced beyond the barn where Pennington's artillery opened at close range, killing five rebel officers. Between the two sides, eleven officers were killed or wounded, indicating the short struggle was vicious. Although statistics vary, the total losses at Hunterstown range from eighty to one hundred men. Confederate survivors withdrew south down the Hunterstown Road to the Gilbert Farm and subsequently Brinkerhoff's Ridge. With both sides monitoring the other



The Grass Hotel – Photo Don Wiles



The John Tate Farmstead – Photo Don Wiles



marksmen found excellent cover and elevated fields of fire within the enormous Pennsylvania bank barn west of the road. Felty's barn was even large enough to conceal Lieutenant A.C.M. Pennington's 2nd U.S. Battery M, 250 yards to the north along the Felty-Tate ridge. Meanwhile, to complete the deployment, dismounted men of the 7th Michigan formed undetected in the tall wheat east of the Hunterstown Road, to form a cross fire with the 6th Michigan.

Custer had arranged the perfect trap, but how to lure Confederate cavalrymen into it required another step. To achieve this and complete the perfect ambush, he would personally lead around sixty mounted men of Company A, 6th Michigan on a daring charge toward the Confederate position. Because the Hunterstown Road was tightly flanked on both sides with post and rail fences, it

from a mile's distance, only long range artillery was exchanged the rest of the evening. At 11:00 PM, Judson Kilpatrick withdrew Custer's men and the rest of the division with new orders to the Baltimore Pike.

The significance of this action far exceeds the fight itself, and the ramifications were greater than many realize. The first of these has to do with Culp's Hill being saved for the Union on July 2. When Custer enticed Hampton's Georgia and South Carolina Cavalrymen into a fight, he prevented them from reaching the left flank of the Army of Northern Virginia by way of the Hunterstown Road. Jeb Stuart had ordered them there to protect Richard Ewell's left, while the latter assaulted Culp's Hill. When Stuart learned of Union Cavalry at Hunterstown, he countermanded his original order, to permit Hampton to stay and fight. Ewell has been criticized greatly for not beginning his attack at Culp's

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6 - Hunterstown

Hill earlier on July 2, but his delay in part was related to Hampton's cavalry not arriving to protect him from David Gregg's division of Union cavalry sitting squarely on his flank along the Hanover Road. To compensate, Ewell had to reassign 3,000 officers and infantrymen to the Hanover Road. This weakened his main assault upon Culp's and Cemetery Hills. Indirectly then, the episode at Hunterstown helped to save the Army of the Potomac's main position at Gettysburg.

Another great consequence of Hunterstown is that Daniel Sickles Union Third Corps, representing the left flank of that army near the Round Tops, was largely unprotected by cavalry. Outside of one or two cavalry units doing spot duty there, the Federal flank was vulnerable. This is so because the Signal Station at Little Round Top incorrectly reported between 1:30 PM and 1:45 PM on July 2, to have spotted a column of 10,000 Confederates with trains to be marching towards the extreme Union right. What they actually saw was James Longstreet's countermarch moving northeast before turning due south. Union Army Headquarters responded by giving David Gregg orders to take some of his cavalry north from Hanover Road towards Hunterstown and Heidlersburg to ascertain whether the large Confederate column was coming through by way of modern Route 394 to assault Culp's Hill and Meade's lines of communication and supply below on the Baltimore Pike. Judson Kilpatrick's Cavalry division was given this assignment by Gregg. When Custer struck Hampton at Hunterstown, he was actually trying to ascertain whether a column of 10,000 Confederate Infantry lay beyond.

Had the Round Top Signal Station not crossed its signals, Kilpatrick's division with Custer most likely would have moved to protect Sickles' left. Such a result should have erased the Meade-Sickles controversy, because Kilpatrick's men naturally would have discovered, harassed, and delayed Longstreet's men until Commanding Union General Meade rectified Sickles' line. Because Longstreet's Corps was without cavalry on July 2, Sickles with Kilpatrick's help promised a decided advantage for the federals on July 2. Circumstances in Hunterstown sidetracked this logical scenario. There are many other historical points to make about Hunterstown

such as its early status as a rival with Gettysburg for the county seat, a stopping point for President George Washington during the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794, an important early crossroads town, and site of a substantial Confederate hospital.

Regarding the hospital connection, the old town is still filled with the charm of a late 1700's hamlet, untouched thus far by modern development. Quaint homes and settings undisturbed, harkening back to another time include Kilpatrick's Headquarters at the Grass Hotel, the John Tate House, Barn & Blacksmith Shop where George Washington shod his horse's shoes in October 1794. One of the Tate sheds even bears artillery shell marks left from the cavalry battle in 1863. The Great Conewago Presbyterian Church is another impressive structure from the period, made of stone, and documented as a Confederate Hospital. Each of these dwellings adds so much to the historic time capsule that is Hunterstown, Pennsylvania.

With that said, every effort must be made to preserve the principle battlefield at Hunterstown along with the charm and richness of the old town sitting directly north of it. As development comes to Hunterstown, it must tastefully build around the two and save both. Doing so is not only imperative with respect to its National Register of Historic Places status, but it is also wise. If developed right, all Hunterstown property owners can boast a preserved national shrine in the heart of their town that will only increase in monetary and cultural value.

Finally, as the July 3 cavalry fight, three miles east of Gettysburg, is widely known today as East Cavalry Field; and as the ill-fated cavalry charge led by Elon Farnsworth on July 3, two miles south of town, is commonly called South Cavalry Field; so too should the Hunterstown clash, only four miles north of Gettysburg be regarded as North Cavalry Field. In this same vein, Buford's cavalry fight one mile west of town on July 1 might be called West Cavalry Field. In all of these actions, Union cavalry buffered key Union positions in four directions of the compass. Each site is equally essential to accurately portraying Gettysburg as the most famous battle for human freedom in American History.

[www.hunterstown1863.com](http://www.hunterstown1863.com)

## **General Hancock Reports from Gettysburg**

**"The battle is quiet now."**

After the death of General Reynolds on July 1, General Oliver O. Howard took command of the field and sent dispatches on his view of the situation back to army headquarters near Taneytown, Maryland. Miles away from the battlefield and unable to discern the true nature of the Union positions at Gettysburg, General Meade ordered General Winfield Scott Hancock, commander of the 2nd Army Corps, to ride ahead to Gettysburg to assess the situation and take command of the field.

The charismatic 39 year-old career officer had an electric presence on those around him. Fearless and direct, Hancock was a superb officer who's only fault was a coarse vocabulary. General Hancock arrived at Cemetery Hill about 4:30 that afternoon, just in time to witness the flood



Photo Don Wiles

of survivors from the day's battle streaming through Gettysburg. There was an awkward confrontation between Hancock and Howard over who was the senior commander on the field, but a compromise was struck. Working in conjunction with Howard, General Hancock established the Union positions on Cemetery Ridge and rallied the shattered

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7 - Hancock

remnants of both the 1st and 11th Corps. Seating himself near the gatekeeper's house at the cemetery, Hancock hastily scribbled out a message to General Meade:

5:25 P.M., July 1, 1863

*GENERAL: When I arrived here an hour since, I found that our troops had given up the front of Gettysburg and the town. We have now taken up a position in the cemetery, and cannot well be taken. It is a position, however, easily turned. Slocum is now coming on the ground and is taking position to the right which will protect the right. But we have, as yet, no troops on the left, the Third Corps not having yet reported; but I suppose that it is marching up. If so, its flank march will in a degree protect our left flank. In the meantime Gibbon had better march on so as to take position on our right or left, to our rear, as may be necessary, in some commanding position. General (Gibbon) will see this dispatch. The battle is quiet now. I think we will be all right until night. I have sent all the trains back. When night comes it can be told better what had best be done. I think we can retire; if not, we can fight here, as the ground appears not unfavorable with good troops. I will communicate in a few moments with General Slocum, and transfer the command to him. Howard says that Doubleday's command gave way. General Warren is here.*

*Your obedient servant,  
Winfield S. Hancock  
Major-General, Commanding Corps*

*From GNMP*

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS  
THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN AUGUST!**

## The Civil War Institute

**Manor College has announced the schedule for The Civil War Institute's summer sessions:**

Call **(215) 884-2218** to register or for an application for the certificate program. Manor College is located at 700 Fox Chase Road in Jenkintown, PA. All courses currently offered in the summer semester are elective courses. Certificate-required courses will be available with the 2008 Fall Semester.

### Sherman's March to Victory

-.6 CEUs - Act 48 Approved - Follow William T. Sherman's mighty western army as it fights through Dalton, Resaca, Pickett's Mill and Kennesaw Mountain, finally capturing Atlanta. Then Sherman breaks loose from his supply line and cuts a 50-mile-wide swath of destruction, making Georgia howl in what has been called the first total-war strategy. He captures Savannah, Mother City of Georgia, as a Christmas gift to President Lincoln, proceeds to Columbia, S.C., and then on to the final battle against his wily old foe, Joseph Johnston, at Bentonville, N.C.

**Dates:** Mondays, August 4, 11, 18  
**Time:** 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
**Fee:** \$45  
**Sessions:** 3  
**Instructor:** Frank Avato

**Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia  
1805 Pine Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103  
215.735.8196  
Founded January 1977**

**Annual Memberships**  
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**Individuals: \$25.00**  
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**Vice President: Richard Jankowski**  
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