

"Here, in the dread tribunal of last resort, valor contended against valor. Here brave men struggled and died for the right as God gave them to see the right."
 – Adlai E. Stevenson I, Vice President of the US, 1893 – 1897

The MARCH/APRIL 2018
ANGLE

A bimonthly publication of the Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
 Visit us online at www.cwrtgettyburg.org



Impending Actions
 Information and details about upcoming Gettysburg Roundtable presentations.

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MARCH 22ND

HANCOCK AT GETTYSBURG

Hancock's actions at the battle of Gettysburg were far too many to describe in one meeting; so my presentation will discuss what Hancock did on the first day of the battle.

In the early afternoon of 1 July 1863, at Taneytown, Maryland, Hancock's friend and army commander George Gordon Meade approached Hancock, in person, with news that there was substantial fighting outside the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, some twelve miles north of where they stood. Having heard that the commander of the field there, General John Reynolds, was either badly wounded or killed, leaving command of the field to General Oliver Otis Howard. General Meade ordered Hancock to ride to Gettysburg without his corps, where he was to take command of the field and report back to Meade whether Union troops present should withdraw, or if Meade should order the rest of the army forward to give battle at Gettysburg.

Upon reaching the field, Hancock had to deal with the thorough defeat and full retreat of the two Union army corps present, as well as handle an offended General Howard, who was insulted at being replaced by a junior in rank.

My presentation is largely the story of how these matters developed during that pivotal afternoon, and how Hancock handled them, setting the stage for the largest battle ever in the Western Hemisphere.

PAUL BRETZGER was born in Long Branch, New Jersey, and grew up in nearby Eatontown.



In 1987, Mr. Bretzger earned a B.A. in Historical Studies from Stockton University in Pomona, New Jersey. He also received, that year, the History Award for Outstanding Senior Thesis. He moved on to receive a Master of Architecture degree from New Jersey Institute of Technology in 1992.

Mr. Bretzger thereafter lived and worked as an architect from the mid-1990s until 2016 in New York City. Meanwhile, he used his free time to study General Winfield Scott Hancock's actions at the battle of Gettysburg and develop what became his book *Observing Hancock at Gettysburg: The General's Leadership through Eyewitness Accounts*. He has written articles relating to Hancock at Gettysburg, published in *Civil War News*, *HistoryNet*, and *Gettysburg Magazine*.

APRIL 26TH

**BACKGROUND FOR SPRING FIELD TRIP
 FLAMES BEYOND GETTYSBURG**

In late June 1863, two powerful columns of Confederate troops approached the Susquehanna River in south-central Pennsylvania. One marched northeasterly from Franklin County through Carlisle toward Harrisburg and the other headed eastward through Gettysburg and York towards Wrightsville/Columbia. This PowerPoint talk by veteran author Scott L. Mingus, Sr. will cover the latter command, that of Maj. Gen. Jubal Early, as it conquered Gettysburg after a series of skirmishes on June 26 and then two days later occupied York, the largest Northern town to fall to the Confederates during the entire war. General Early ransomed York for money and supplies and surrounded the town with artillery and troops. Hastily organized state militia defended the river crossing at Wrightsville and then burned the world's longest covered bridge to prevent Rebel passage into Lancaster County, from which Early had hoped to threaten Harrisburg.

SCOTT MINGUS is a scientist and consultant in the paper industry, and holds patents in self-adhesive postage stamps and bar code labels. The Ohio native graduated from the paper science and engineering program at Miami University. He was part of the research team that developed the first commercially successful self-adhesive U.S. postage stamps. He has written nineteen Civil War and Underground Railroad books. His biography of Confederate General William "Extra Billy" Smith won multiple awards, including the Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. Literary Prize for Confederate History. He has also written several articles for *Gettysburg Magazine*, as well as for various historical journals.



Scott and his wife Debi live in York, Pa., and he maintains a blog on the Civil War history of York County (www.yorkblog.com/cannonball). He received the 2013 Heritage Profile Award from the York County Heritage Trust for his contributions to local Civil War history. He also has written six scenario books for Civil War miniature wargaming. His great-great-grandfather was a 15-year-old drummer boy in the 51st Ohio Infantry under General Sherman, and other family members fought at Antietam and Gettysburg.

Hello, Friends!

Well, we've almost made it through the winter! March is always unpredictable, but we know that soon redbuds and green leaves are getting ready to burst forth, replacing the gray and brown of the winter battlefield. We all look forward to getting out on the field, feeling the air getting warmer and the sight of robins bopping around.

Everyone involved in the running of the roundtable deserves our special thanks for keeping it rolling along in the most efficient way. It takes a village! Today I would like to acknowledge a few members who consistently go above and beyond, contributing extra time and energy to assure a top notch organization.

Dave Joswick creates the most beautiful newsletter for us to enjoy. He is always flexible in adding in items at the last minute, and is so very creative in his layouts and information. Dave also is always willing to send out email blasts when necessary, and month after month produces the beautiful Certificate of Appreciation presented to our speakers.

Linda Joswick has developed a stunning web page, (www.gettysburgcwr.org) full of information, upcoming events for the roundtable and civil war events in general, archived newsletters, meeting minutes, speakers list, and so much more. In a full time work week, she is able to carve out time to make sure everything we need to know about our roundtable is one click away.

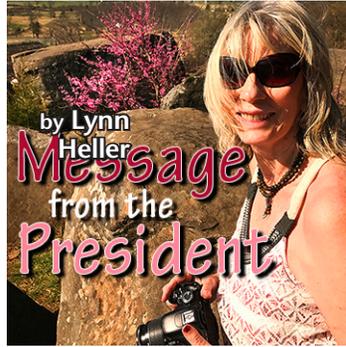
Roger Heller has provided a masterful speakers roster, putting in a lot of his time emailing the speakers, making sure they have the information and equipment they need, and always searching for new ideas & speakers for our summer tours, & annual field trips and of course for our Holiday Banquet.

Dave Diner, our crackerjack treasurer, keeps our finances in apple pie order, and makes frequent trips to the bank and the post office to stay on top of every transaction that comes in or goes out. All the folks that work at the bank give him a "Hi Dave" wave, he is there so often.

So, when you see these folks at a meeting, please give them a hearty thank you!

And a hearty thank you to all you loyal members for supporting and contributing to the roundtable in so many ways.

Lynn



NEWS from...round the TABLE

- All of our upcoming speakers are now published on our website:

www.cwrtgettysburg.org.

- The annual GCWRT Field Trip will be held on Saturday April 28th

and will take us

through the Civil War History of York County, PA. Our guide will be Scott Mingus, Sr. See the flyer attachment in your emailed newsletter for details.

- Would you like to do a short presentation (5 minutes) Civil War item at one of our meetings? Our "Show and Tell" is open to anyone who has something to share. Please contact Al Ferranto: 2wisvol@gmail.com.

- Anyone involved in a Civil War activity that you would like to share in our newsletter, please contact Dave Joswick: art-masters@comcast.net.

- Help is always appreciated at the end of our meetings to lend a hand in cleaning up the refreshment table. Many hands make for light work.

- Our own Hilda Koontz will be presenting *The Sultana Disaster: Freedom's Dream Gone Awry* at the Carroll Valley Branch of the Adams County Library on Monday, April 23 at 7PM. This program details the explosion and sinking of the steamship Sultana on April 27, 1865.

This tragedy is still the most costly disaster in US maritime history, with a lost of life far greater than the Titanic. This program has been expanded to include many new photographs and the latest scientific explanation of the explosion. There is no charge for this event. The Carroll Valley branch of the library is located in the Carroll Valley Borough complex at 5685 Fairfield Rd., across from Ski Liberty.

- The Seminary Ridge Museum is announcing their upcoming 2018 Symposium titled *Civil War Medicine: New Perspectives*.

The Civil War has long thought to be fought during the "Medical Middle Ages"; however, recent scholarship has highlighted advancements in medical care that emerged during the conflict. This year's Symposium will explore the world of Civil War Medicine as we welcome some of the preeminent scholars working in the field to offer their thoughts and findings on the topic.

The one-day Symposium will be held on Saturday, March 17th beginning at 8:30 AM with coffee and registration. The event ends at 4:30 PM, however there is an optional dinner planned for 6:00 PM on the campus at the Seminary Refectory.

Cost is \$85 for Seminary Ridge Museum members and \$100 for non-members. The dinner option will be available as an add-on for \$30; includes buffet and alcohol.

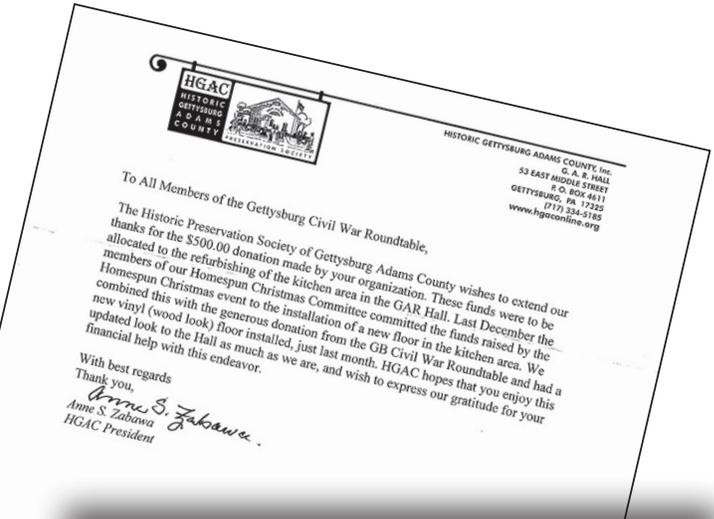
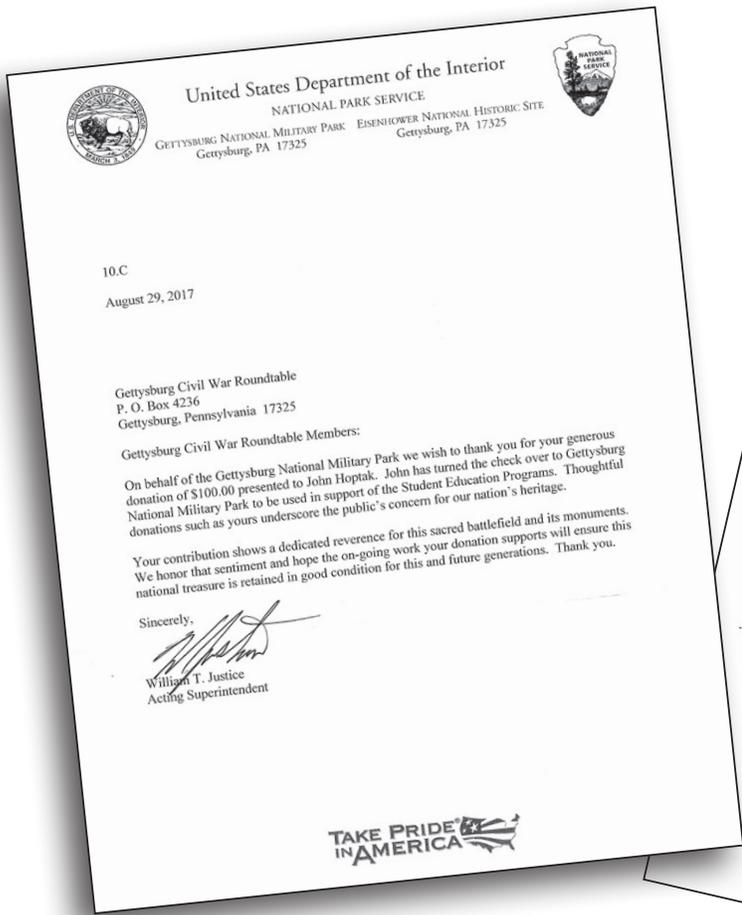
To purchase your ticket, call 717-339-1300, or visit the Museum website at: www.seminaryridgemuseum.org. The Seminary Ridge Museum is located at 111 Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg.

From September to May, we meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at the GAR Building, 53 East Middle Street. Light refreshments and conversation starting at 6:30 PM, and the featured program beginning at 7:00 PM.

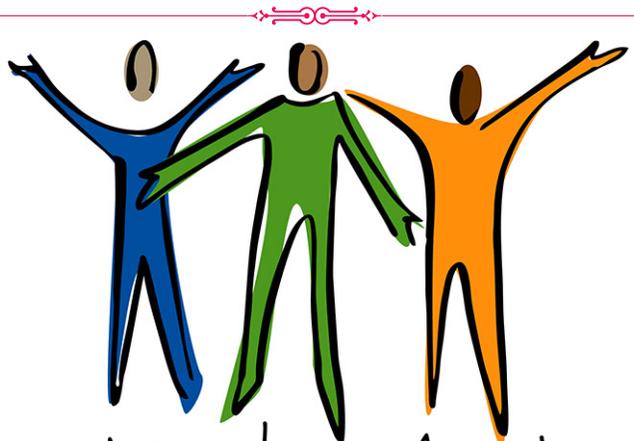
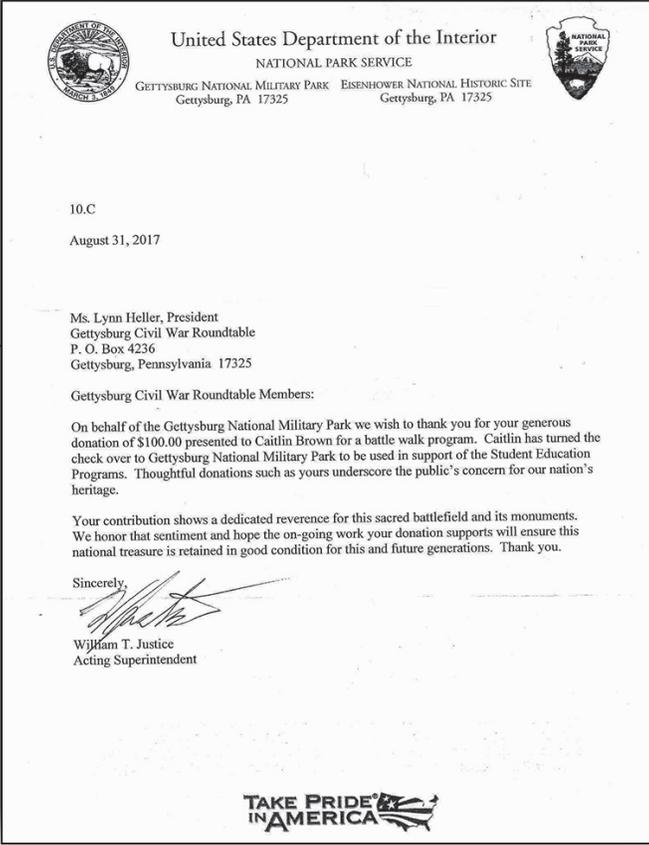
Our June, July, and August summer meetings are in the field starting at 6:00 PM, with the meeting location announced in the bi-monthly newsletter and on the roundtable website: www.cwrtgettysburg.org.

Whenever severe weather is predicted, program information can be found on the roundtable website and Facebook page after 3 PM or you can call Lynn at 717-398-2072.

The next scheduled board meeting begins at 6:30 PM on Thursday, March 8, at the Perkins Restaurant on York Street, Gettysburg.



Above right is a thank you letter from HGAC for a \$500 donation from our Roundtable. The two letters, above and to the right, refer to honorariums given the Park Rangers who gave summer programs for our Roundtable in 2017. John Hoptack and Caitlin Brown turned their checks over to the NPS to be used for Student Education Programs.



New Members Are Joining
 Terrance Hall
 Ted Hirt
 Paul Matlock
 Brenda Ritterpusch
 Tom & Mary Rush
 Doug Smith



Mess Duties

March 22 Jason Fretz
 April 26 Lynn and Roger Heller

JANUARY MEETING CANDIDS



Our scheduled speaker, George Franks, was ill and unable to give his presentation at the January meeting. On very short notice, Chuck Teague stepped in and gave a wonderful presentation titled *Wright or Wrong – Doing History Amidst Contradictions*. Our sincere thanks to Chuck for saving the day.