

"The day that the balance between the two sections of the country – the slaveholding States and the non-slaveholding States – is destroyed is a day that will not be far removed from political revolution, anarchy, civil war, and widespread disaster."

– JOHN C. CALHOUN

The ANGLE

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019
A bimonthly publication of the Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
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ImpendingActions

Information and details about upcoming Gettysburg Roundtable presentations. **Reminder...for all indoor meetings, doors open at 6:30 PM and the meeting begins at 7 PM.**

NOVEMBER 21ST

NOT EVERYTHING IS AT IT SEEMS IN CIVIL WAR PHOTOGRAPHY

Could it be that familiar and seemingly mundane studio images of Civil War generals hold a long-forgotten hidden secret? A wrinkle in a sleeve sent Richard Lewis on a six-year research project that resulted in two



articles in Civil War Times magazine and revealed a fascinating surprise. Not everything is as it seems in Civil War photography, even in pictures of well-known figures. Join us as Richard presents a lively and fun PowerPoint taking us step-by-step through his discoveries and enabling audience members to play "history detective" along with him.

RICHARD LEWIS is a native of Gulfport, Mississippi, and a graduate of Louisiana State University where he studied Civil War history under Pulitzer Prize-winner Dr. T. Harry Williams. He retired as the Director of Public Relations for the Virginia Tourism Corporation, serves as a volunteer at Richmond National Battlefield Park and is secretary of Civil War Trails, Inc.



DECEMBER 5TH

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BANQUET

We invite you to join us at the Historic Dobbin House for our annual Holiday Banquet. Please refer to the banquet flyer that accompanies this newsletter. The buffet menu includes: 25 Item salad bar, fresh baked breads, Chicken Coq Au Vin, Seafood Newberg, Beef Stroganoff, Potatoes O'Brien, Green Beans Almondine, Rice Pilaf, Broccoli & Cauliflower with cheese sauce, Cherry Crumb Pie, Colonial Pudding Cake, Chocolate Cake, Coffee, Tea, Ice Tea, Lemonade & Water.

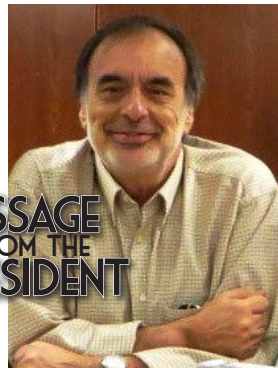


Last year several members canvased businesses in town requesting donations for our door prize tables. Business owners were very receptive and these contributions were a great addition to our groupings of prizes, and very appreciated by the lucky winners. If you are interested in being a door prize street warrior, please see Lynn. You will be given a letter to hand out to the businesses, explaining our banquet and our request. Thank you!

Anyone wishing to donate an item to the Door Prize table for our Holiday Banquet on December 5, at The Dobbin House, please notify Lynn or Roger Heller. You may email: lynnheller7577@gmail.com, or call 717-398-2072, bring to the November meeting, or make special arrangements with Lynn or Roger. You may bring your item directly to the banquet, but it is important that we know ahead of time so we can assure there is enough space on the tables. Please attach your name and description of the item so we may acknowledge you. Thank you for your generosity and for contributing to this special annual event.

Greetings to all...

Whether Program Director Roger Heller planned it this way or not, there's been a discernable theme to our last two meetings of the Roundtable: Confederate diaries—albeit from quite different circumstance. In September, following a fascinating Show & Tell from Warren Wilde's Civil War family tree, Professor Michael K. Shaffer of Kennesaw, Georgia, shared the late-in-life remembrance of a veteran of the 1st Virginia Cavalry. Thomas Colley had been shot and left for dead at Kelly's Ford in March of '63, recovering in time to get a foot shot off at Haw's Shop at the end of Mary, 1864. Suffering post-war from what would today be termed PTSD, Colley would credit the love of a good woman and, through her, the church, for helping him put his life back together; whereupon the sobered-up old Confederate journaled the remarkable remembrance edited by Shaffer: *In Memory of Self and Comrades: Thomas Wallace Colley's Recollections of Civil War*.



BY BRUCE DAVIS

At last week's meeting, which featured the presentation of Cal Doucette Award to Ron Rock, Professional Educator Jan Croon shared another southern diary, this from a Georgia youth named LeRoy Wiley Gresham, published under the title *The War Outside My Window*. Disabled when his leg was crushed in childhood, young Gresham started his diary in 1860, writing almost daily entries through 1865, when his life ended concurrent with the fall of the Confederacy. Jan Croon is a first-class story teller and the full house seemed to be hanging on every word, rooting for this bright doomed kid, knowing it wasn't going to end well.

Of course, rooting for a doomed disabled teenager is a long way from rooting for the doomed cause, dear to his heart. As told by Jan Croon, LeRoy had an older, able-bodied brother, who, as the son of a wealthy, slaveholding family, avoided service in the first years of the war. As Thomas Colley might have attested, it was indeed, a rich man's war and a poor man's fight.

Those who weren't with us for our evening with Jan Croon and LeRoy Wiley Gresham missed something special—but then I could say as much for Michael Shaffer's presentation and pretty much every other speaker who has graced our gatherings. I do hope you'll mark these fourth Thursdays on your calendars and make every attempt to be with us. Having given a public speech of sorts every weekend for 44 years, I know your presence will be an encouragement to our guests.

Don't mark the fourth Thursday of November, though! That would Thanksgiving, so we're moving our meeting up a week, to the 21st—the third Thursday. Our December gathering is the big holiday event on the 5th, so no fourth Thursday in December, either.

If you're ever confused about what's going on when, check out our Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg website: www.gettysburgcwr.org and/or the Facebook Page. Weather-related cancellations will be posted in both places, as well.

One last thing: At our most recent Roundtable Board meeting, it was suggested our group be more intentional about having a presence in the *Gettysburg Times*. I said I'd be happy to fold that into my presidential responsibilities. The folks at the paper have been very kind and the plan is to have a Roundtable article included on the third Saturday of each month, the first having already been published.

It is a privilege to serve as President of this outstanding organization.

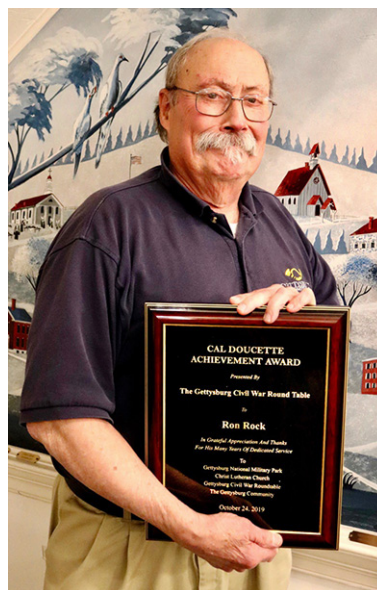
BRD

Ron Rock is 2019 Cal Doucette Award recipient

Contributed by Lynn Heller

At the October meeting, Ron Rock was presented with the annual Cal Doucette Achievement award.

Ron first became involved with Gettysburg National Military Park in June 1998, when he and his wife Kathy went on a work weekend sponsored by the Friends of the National



Parks where they worked painting fences at the Henry Spangler Farm. The next year, he started bringing groups of friends to GNMP each year through 2017. During that 20-year period up to nine of his friends would come each June and through the years they wound up painting and constructing fences at various locations throughout the Park. They weeded several overgrown areas near the High Water Mark; they painted the Codori, McClean, McPherson, Culp, Bryan, Slyder, and Leister Barns; the Trostle and G. Weikert summer

kitchens; the Sherfy farm house; fencing at the Rogers farm site; and fencing on the Eisenhower farm. On two occasions they worked in the National Cemetery cleaning modern tomb stones and repainting the names of Civil War dead on their stones.

He started volunteering at the Visitor Center information desk over twelve years ago, and he continues volunteering twice a week at the Visitor Center.

In 2007 Barbara Sanders, Education Specialist at GNMP, was also the Volunteer Coordinator and was charged with recruiting and training a larger cohort of volunteers as they transitioned to the new museum and Visitor Center. In her words, she "takes all credit" for bringing on Ron as a visitors service volunteer. In her words Ron is the "information desk

From September to May, we meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at the GAR Building, 53 East Middle Street. Doors open at 6:30 PM, with 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.cwrgettysburg.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 Bruce at 402-686-6969.

The next scheduled board meeting begins at 6:00 PM on Thursday, November 14, at the Perkins Restaurant on York Street, Gettysburg.

work horse, but a more delightful work horse you will never find – steady, reliable, effective, kind, upbeat, and hilarious.” Barbara continues...“Now let’s reflect on those last two words for a moment – upbeat and hilarious. Ron has developed a great camaraderie with other volunteers, the staff, all partners, and most importantly with visitors. I believe he does this through a small but devilish twinkle in his eye.

There is one volunteer in particular with whom Ron often has lunch, or patrols the building on busy days...and when you see these two together, you know that everything is under control, that they will answer every question asked, keep an eye out for safety, and most importantly that they will have fun doing it. This is the greatest gift a volunteer can give...a reminder to have fun, to laugh, and to enjoy each day. Ron reminds us why we got into this business in the first place...because it is meaningful and important, but it is not rocket science...it’s fun! It’s fun to talk to people all day who are on vacation. It’s fun to provide directions on how to start the auto tour a million times. It’s fun to explain what a cyclo-rama is. It’s fun to hand out Junior Ranger books. It’s fun to live and work each week in Gettysburg.”

In this way, he has a great deal in common with the namesake for this award, Cal Doucette. Whether he was dressed up as a 19th century Santa, or in his volunteer uniform, Cal valued each and every moment he spent in service to the visitor and to the memory of the soldiers who fought this battle. I don’t think Ron ever misses a training or a volunteer or staff social event, and if he ever did I am certain he was greatly missed and it was a lesser event because he was not there. I am fortunate to call Ron Rock a neighbor, a co-worker, and friend. And may I also add that I am a huge Ron Rock fan as well. He deserves this award for his service to the park and the community; he is, as his name explains, a rock that we rely on each week.”

I would add that he and Cal Doucette also share something else...that small but devilish twinkle in their eye.

For several years during the summer he volunteered at the West End guide information center. He has been a member of Park Watch for eight years, helping the Protection Rangers by patrolling the park and acting as their eyes and ears, as well as helping out with traffic control at major events. Ron was also a member of the Safety Committee at the VC for two years.

For over ten years he has been on the planning committee of the Christ Lutheran Church program *Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital*. This program brings to life the true stories of wounded soldiers, and the doctors and nurses who worked valiantly to save them during and after the battle. In addition to planning and arranging the program he has participated in playing several roles in the performance. Over the past fifteen years more than 16,000 people have attended this poignant and significant program.

For the battle’s 150th Anniversary, he worked with the NPS in connection with their July 1st program, *Yankees, Rebels and Civilians, The First Day of Battle Ends*. Hundreds of visitors attended this Christ Church program about what happened



Past roundtable president Lynn Heller describes the Cal Doucette Achievement Award.

2019 Gettysburg Civil War Round Table *Annual Holiday Banquet • Historic Dobbin House*



Our Beloved Gettysburg Battlefield & Park, 1863-2019

Highlights from 23 Years of Research

Presenter Ben Y. Dixon has spent the last 23 years attempting to gather as many photographs, newspaper articles, interviews, maps, and video and sound recordings that showcase the many changes made to the Gettysburg Battlefield and Park from 1863 to the present. This talk will exhibit some of the most interesting and rare photographs and stories that Ben has come across in his years of research, and he will couple them with highlights from the hundreds of interviews, journals, diaries, and archival materials he has uncovered that reveal even more of the story behind the news and pictures that will be featured in this program. Most of all, Ben is grateful to the Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable for this wonderful chance to share a few of his most surprising and interesting findings.

BENJAMIN Y. DIXON was born, raised, and married in Gettysburg, and is the author of *Learning the Battle of Gettysburg: A Guide to the Official Records* (Thomas Publications, 2007). He is presently a professor of geography at the State University of New York at Oneonta, and is completely obsessed with studying how both the Gettysburg battlefield, and the way the battle is interpreted to the public, have changed since 1863. 📷



RON ROCK continued from page 3

there when it was used as a hospital during and after the battle. (More information about the program can be found at: <https://npnsgnmp.wordpress.com/2013/08/30/memories-of-the-150th-white-knuckle-history/>)

Ron has been a member of the Historic Church Walking



Ron receives congratulations from roundtable members.

Tour's Board of Directors for eight years. He is responsible for arranging group bus tours and for enlisting the volunteer guides who lead the visitors to each of the four participating churches on the east and west sides of town. He also acts as a guide and presents the Christ Church history to the visitors.

On Saturdays, from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend he makes arrangements for Christ Church to be open in the morning for visitors who wish to learn of the history of this structure, which is the oldest building in Gettysburg in continuous use as a church. He arranges for the volunteer guides and sets up their schedule. Usually several hundred visitors take advantage of the opportunity to visit this church during the summer.

Ron has been a CWRT member since 2007. For six years he served on the board and was chairman of the nominating committee for several years. Ron participated with several other Board members in the creation and development of the Cal Doucette Achievement Award.

Ron grew up in the Bronx, graduated from Gettysburg College in 1964, from Rutgers Law School in 1967, and moved to Gettysburg in 2006, lucky for us (!). Gettysburg is a better place because of Ron Rock, and the generous and dedicated example he has set.

Congratulations Ron...well deserved. 🙌



On Saturday, January 11, at 2:30 PM, Hilda Koontz will be presenting *The Invisible Wounds: A Perspective on Mental Health Issues During the Civil War* at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick MD.

The program examines the extreme psychological stress suffered by the average Civil War soldier and contrasts that experience to today's understanding and treatment of mental trauma.

The program is free with admission to the Museum located at 48 E. Patrick Street in Frederick. More info is available at www.civilwarmed.org. 🙌

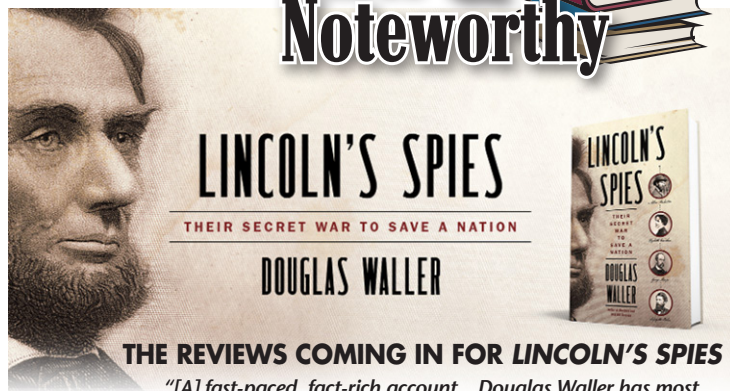


New Members Are Joining

Gary "Rip" Engle
Ken Farmer

Welcome to all; we're glad to have you with us!

NEW & Noteworthy



THE REVIEWS COMING IN FOR LINCOLN'S SPIES

"[A] fast-paced, fact-rich account...Douglas Waller has most skillfully aimed a spotlight on this neglected aspect of the Union effort. Civil War military history can never again be read or told in quite the same way." —WALL STREET JOURNAL

"A lively account...Impressively researched, 'Lincoln's Spies' illuminates a little-known aspect of the history of the Civil War." —MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE

"'Lincoln's Spies' is about more than its title suggests—[Waller's] extremely well researched book is not only a study of the four key figures but also a comprehensive study of Union and Confederate espionage and a landmark contribution to both Civil War literature and American intelligence history." —THE CIPHER BRIEF

Available at Amazon. For more on Waller's books, visit www.douglascwaller.com

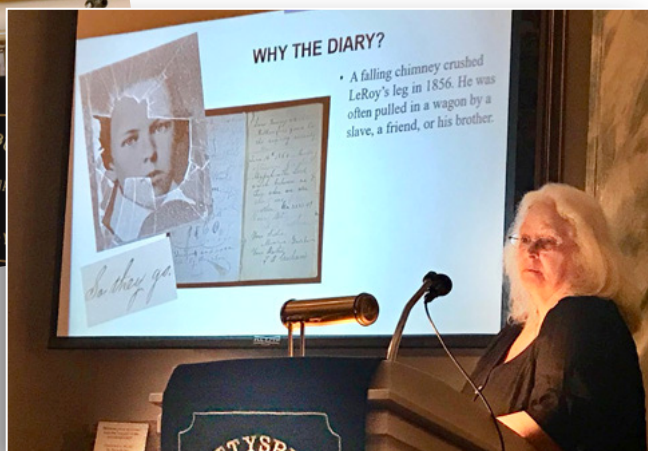
SEPT. MEETING CANDIDS

September featured a discussion with historian Michael K. Shaffer on **THOMAS COLLEY'S CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCE IN THE 1ST VA CAVALRY**



OCTOBER MEETING CANDIDS

Featuring Janet Croon's lecture on the **CIVIL WAR DIARY OF LEROY WILEY GRESHAM, 1860-1865**



Pictured with Ron Rock is Cal Doucette's widow, Sue.



Dedication Day events are announced

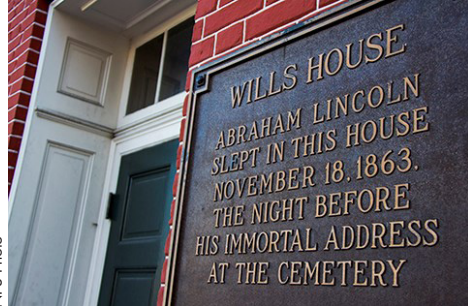
Information for this article gathered from <https://www.nps.gov/gett/planyourvisit/dedication-day.htm>

November 19 marks the anniversary of the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg. The Soldiers' National Cemetery is famous throughout the world today as the site of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, delivered at the cemetery's dedication ceremonies four and a half months after the battle. Numerous events take place each year to commemorate this monumental anniversary.

DAVID WILLS HOUSE AND GETTYSBURG LINCOLN RAILROAD STATION OPEN HOUSE: NOVEMBER 18 FROM 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.



The only known picture of Abraham Lincoln from the November 19, 1863 ceremony.



NPS Photo

Sign at the front door of the David Wills house.

Evening Open House at the David Wills House and Gettysburg Lincoln Railroad Station. Special interpretive programs will coincide with the period President Lincoln occupied the two structures during his visit to Gettysburg to dedicate the Soldiers' National Cemetery. This event is sponsored by the Gettysburg Foundation.

DEDICATION DAY CEREMONY: NOVEMBER 19 AT 10:15 AM

Dedication Day 2019 will commemorate the 156th anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The ceremonies begin at the Soldiers' National Cemetery with a wreath laying at the Soldiers' National Monument at 10:15 AM. The formal Dedication Day program, with keynote speaker, follows at the Rostrum at 10:30 AM. Presidential scholar Michael Beschloss will present the keynote address. This event is sponsored by Gettysburg National Military Park, the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania, the Gettysburg Foundation, and Gettysburg College.

PARADE: NOVEMBER 23 AT 1:00 PM

An annual parade of Civil War living history groups is held in conjunction with the Gettysburg Address anniversary. This event is sponsored by the Sons of Veterans Reserve, the Military Department of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War.

REMEMBRANCE DAY ILLUMINATION: NOVEMBER 23 FROM 5:30 PM TO 9:00 PM

This solemn commemoration features a luminary candle on each of the 3,512 Civil War soldier's graves. Names of the fallen soldiers will be read throughout the evening. This event is sponsored by the Gettysburg Foundation. 🇺🇸

Michael R. Beschloss will deliver keynote address

Information for this article gathered from <https://aeispeakers.com/speakers/michael-beschloss/>

Michael Beschloss is an award-winning historian and the best-selling author of numerous books.

Newsweek has called Beschloss "the nation's leading presidential historian." He is the NBC News Presidential Historian, the first time any major network has created such a position, and appears regularly on Meet the Press, Today, and all NBC network programs. He is a regular commentator on PBS NewsHour.



Beschloss holds honorary doctorates from Williams College, St. Mary's College (Maryland) and Lafayette College. He has also received the State of Illinois's Order of Lincoln and the Harry S. Truman Public Service Award from Independence, Missouri. He is a trustee of the White House Historical Association, the National Archives Foundation and the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs. 🇺🇸