

The Dispatch

General Meade Society of Philadelphia, Inc. Newsletter – Winter 2018-2019

“Forget Not His Deeds”

“Until further study warrants a change in view, the student of the battle [Gettysburg] can accept as a working hypothesis General Henry J. Hunt’s estimate of Meade. As Chief of Artillery of the Army of the Potomac, but outside Meade’s circle of friends, Hunt could observe his superior closely and with detachment. From the perspective of years of study of the battle he came to the conclusion that “*all... [Meade’s] acts and intentions...were just what they ought to have been, except perhaps in his order to attack Falling Waters on the morning of the 13th, and especially on the 14th of July, when his Corps Com’drs reported against it, and I was then in favor of the attack, so I can’t blame him. He was right in his orders as to Pip Creek; right in his determination under certain circumstances to fall back to it; right in pushing up to Gettysburg after the battle commenced; right in remaining there; right in making his battle a purely defensive one; right, therefore, in taking the line he did; right in not attempting a counter-attack at any stage of the battle; right as to his pursuit of Lee. Rarely has more skill, vigor, or wisdom been shown under such circumstance....”*

H.J. Hunt to Webb, January 19, 1888, Alexander S Webb Collection.

“The Strange Reputation of General Meade: A Lesson in Historiography” by Edwin B. Coddington. *The Historian*, Vol. 23, No. 2, February 1961.

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Annual General Meade Birthday Celebration, Monday, December 31, 2018 will mark the annual anniversary of the birth of General George G. Meade, commander of the victorious Union army at the Battle of Gettysburg. The General Meade Society of Philadelphia will gather at the Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery Gatehouse, 3822 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, at 11:30AM and then parade of to the final resting place of the General Meade and memorialize his services to the nation. A champagne toast and reception will follow the program. A tour of the historic cemetery will be offered (weather permitting). This year marks the 26th anniversary of the Meade birthday celebration by the General Meade Society. For directions, call: [215-228-8200](tel:215-228-8200) Laurel Hill Cemetery. For information and registration call Andy Waskie at 215-204-5452 or awaskie@temple.edu.

The General Meade Society of Philadelphia is an educational non-profit 501c3 organization chartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The mission of the Society is to promote and preserve the life and service of Major General George Gordon Meade (USA), Commander of the Army of the Potomac. The Society’s Board of Directors meets at the Cannstatter Volksfest-Verein, 9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114, on the 2nd Thursday of designated months starting at 7:00 P.M.

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215-204-5452

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-General-Meade-Society-of-Philadelphia/175046292538630>

Annual Gen. Meade Society Champagne Brunch, Awards Ceremony & Silent Auction - Join the General Meade Society of Philadelphia for its annual Deluxe Champagne Brunch & Awards Ceremony, presenting the Society 'Award of Merit' To Celebrate the new year and toast the hero of Gettysburg! Cannstatter Volksfest Verein, 9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114, [215-332-0121 http://www.cvvphilly.com/directions.html](http://www.cvvphilly.com/directions.html)
Cost: \$47 per person. Deluxe Brunch & Champagne Toasts - 11am - 2pm, **Sunday, January 20, 2019.** To reserve: contact Gerry McCormick at: [215-848-7753](tel:215-848-7753) or gedwinmc@msn.com Reservations should be made by January 13, 2019. Go to the Meade Society web site for further details: www.generalmeadesociety.org

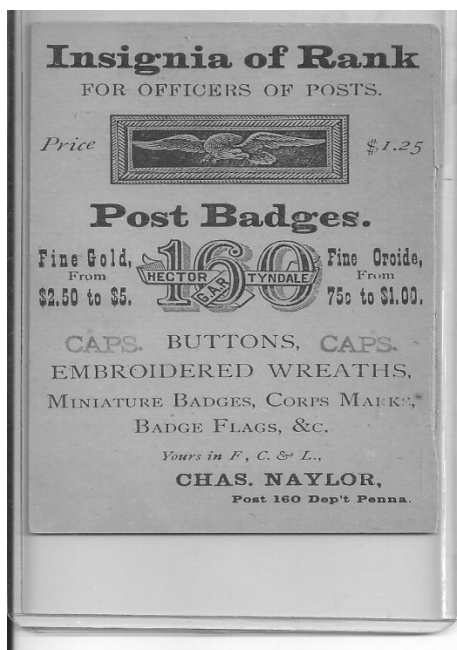
Here are a few of the very interesting pieces that will be available in the Silent Auction:

"The Burning of Chambersburg" – copyrighted 1864, this historic event is narrated by the Rev. B.S. Schneck. D.D., A self-described "eyewitness and sufferer" 75 pgs.

"Six Months at the White House with Abraham Lincoln" – copyrighted 1866, by F.B. Carpenter, who spent time with Mr. Lincoln, in the early months of 1864. A rare glimpse of history.

George G. Meade Commemorative Pocket Knife - a beautiful keepsake!

Early Philadelphia Gar Advertising!



MOLLUS Memorial Meeting Notes – Feb. 13, 1907 – Abraham Lincoln – 31 pgs.

Gutta Percha Daguerreotype Case – "UNION FOREVER"

BOOK – "Women's Work in the Civil War" – copyright 1867 – 800 pgs.

BOOK - "Memorial to Sarah Pugh" – copyright 1888 noted abolitionist

Document – A transcribed copy of the speech given by Gen. George Meade at the Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, dated May 4, 1864 – signed by F.L. Tremain, Asst. Adjt. General

POSTCARD – Invitation to “Calico Ball” given by G.A.R. Drum Corps, at the Quaker City Armory (unused)

CERTIFICATE (undated) of membership in the Society of the Army of the Potomac

COMMEMORATIVE PLATTER (vintage) by Limoge - Presidential Seal of the USA

SMALL GUTTA PERCHA Daguerreotype Case containing portraits of President Lincoln and Mrs. Lincoln

Early Philadelphia GAR Anna Ross Ribbon



Please make plans to join us for our Annual Silent Auction to benefit historic preservation in the Philadelphia Region. - Judi Kearney

Annual Major Octavius V. Catto Honor Ceremony, Saturday, February 23, 2019 -

Wreath laying and military salute at the Catto Monument at the S.W. corner of City Hall at **11am**. Honoring the great Black equal rights and military leader. All military units, period civilians, veterans and heritage groups are encouraged to participate. Following the City Hall Ceremony there will be a PA National Guard Award Luncheon & Ceremony at 12:30pm in the Union League for the ‘Major Catto Medal’ Award Ceremony. Information: Dr. Andy Waskie 215-204-5452 or awaskie@temple.edu

Contact: Mary O'Brien at the Union League to reserve lunch:
obrienm@unionleague.org

Octavius Catto was murdered during an election-day race riot on October 10, 1871. Tasting Freedom. Octavius Catto and the Battle for Equality in Civil War America by Daniel Biddle and Murray Dubin recounts the sad story of five other black men shot on that day and day before:

- Levi Bolden, age 22, he died 3 weeks later. Page 425.
- Isaac Chase, was shot dead outside his home at 811 Emeline Street. Pages 425-6.
- John Fawcett, age 41, Page 427
- Jacob Gordon, Page 419.
- Moses Wright, only he survived. Pages 419-20.

The murderers never received justice.

To view a short history of Octavius Catto go to www.historymakingproductions.com.

Edwin C. Bearss Dinner - On Sunday, October 28, 2018, the General Meade Society of Philadelphia, representing the Civil War History Community of Philadelphia Bearss gathered with friends and admirers at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein, 9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA to honor our nation's greatest living Civil War historian and legendary storyteller. He turned 95 this year.

Ed Bearss has received many awards over the years for his dedication and lifetime of achievement for his efforts to promote American history and educate the public to its importance. Here are a few of his outstanding qualities that have led so many to take inspiration from his leadership:

A keen and curious mind. From his dynamic and detail-rich tours to his recovery of the lost U.S.S. Cairo gunboat, Ed's phenomenal memory and tenacious curiosity have made him a powerhouse of knowledge and discovery.

Singular charisma. As Smithsonian Magazine put it, "In Civil War circles, Bearss is nothing short of a rock star." Known for his booming voice and theatrical delivery, Ed inspires audiences to brave all kinds of weather to learn about history.

Humility. In the words of friends, colleague and historians, Ed is not pedantic and not a showoff. If he gets something wrong, he'll say, "Thank you for correcting me."

Relevant experience. Growing up hearing personal accounts of the war from veterans in his hometown of Billings, Montana, Ed was immersed in Civil War history from a young age.

Respect. A common thread throughout Ed's career is his deep respect for people, land, and stories. This reverence has unified his diverse talents and interests, making him the exceptional historian and preservationist he is today. In short, we seek to congratulate Ed Bearss on his stellar career as historian, preservationist and inspiration over his long and illustrious career.

Ed Bearss served as the National Park Services chief historian from 1981 to 1994 and, thereafter was named chief historian emeritus after having served as Park Ranger in various Civil War parks, including Vicksburg.

A native of Montana, Ed enlisted in the Marine Corps in April 1942 and was assigned to the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion, which immediately deployed to the South Pacific participating in the Guadalcanal and Russell Islands campaigns and later with the 7th Marines, at the battle of Cape Gloucester, New Britain. Ed suffered life-threatening wounds there and spent 26 months recuperating. He graduated from Georgetown University with a degree in Foreign Service Studies and thereafter received his MA from Indiana University writing his master's thesis on Confederate General Patrick R Cleburne. Ed began his Park Service in 1954 and continues his involvement in Civil War history through speaking engagements at various Civil War Roundtables and conducting tours of Civil War battlefields for Smithsonian Associates. Ed Bearss has inspired countless admirers to follow his lead to a better knowledge of American history and heroic deeds of the past. – Andy Waskie

Awards presented to Ed Bearss at the Dinner:

Chapel of the 4 Chaplains 'Legion of Honor' Capt. Louis Cavalieri USN (ret)

General Meade 'Witness Tree' Wood Pen - Joe Hauptmann

General Meade 'Witness Tree' Wood United States Flag - Michael Wunsch

(Donated by Judith & Tom Kearney)

General Meade Tie - Andy Waskie

General Meade Medal - Andy Waskie

Gift Certificate - Board Members, General Meade Society of Philadelphia

Meade Society certificate & Lifetime membership - Joe Pugh

Legion Post 405 award - Jon Peterson

Grand Army of Republic Museum Award - Hugh Boyle

MOLLUS Awards - Gary Grove

Meade Society's Adopted Gettysburg Position -On September 16th we had our fall cleanup, primarily working in the Leister House (General Meade's Gettysburg Headquarters) Garden. This time around we tried a different philosophy. We simply trimmed everything back in preparation of winter. For the past 9 years we have laboriously pulled the many weeds and added new mint, hyssop and wormwood plantings. It is our hope that the plentiful herbs just might start moving in on those weeds! So, after 1 and 1/2 hours of trimming we headed over to the Farnsworth House Inn for food and beverage. Thanks to Betty McCormick for making sure we all had sufficient nourishment and beverages. We were lucky to have a perfectly beautiful, sunny fall day! Special thanks to Jerry and Betty McCormick, Jeanne and Tom O'Toole Nancy Kelsey, Ed and Lori Zongolowicz, Pat Bradley and Ed McLaughlin, Tom Huntingdon, Jeanette McVeigh and Ken Garson, Bill Linhart and John Gavin! Your support and hard work is so very much appreciated! YOU all make this project work and it is so much fun to toil in the soil together! 2019 marked the 10th year of this project! So no details being released yet, but the spring clean up will be a special celebration; very little work and lots of fun. Plans are in the works. We would love to see a record turnout! So, hold our tentative date of June 2nd open for this event and stay tuned.
– Ginny Benner

Annual Membership Appreciation Picnic – General George G. Meade is remembered in Philadelphia by a handful of historical places named for him, or associated with his life, among those are the Meade Equestrian Monument, the Smith Memorial in Fairmount Park, the General Meade Elementary School, Laurel Hill Cemetery, St. Marks Church, the Grand Army of the Republic Museum & Library, and the Meade Home at 1836 Delancey Place. The society in striving to fulfill its mission, throughout the year either meets at these places, volunteers time, or donates funds in order that these memorials to General Meade will not fade from the public memory.

On September 22, 2018, members and friend of the society gathered at the foot of the oft-forgotten Meade Equestrian Monument, north of 'old' Memorial Hall, West Fairmount Park, on Landsdowne Drive, in Philadelphia. The picnic was organized by Jeanne & Tom O' Toole, and Michael Wunsch of the society and was attended by many members and friends of the group.

As the picnic unfolded, the monument grounds was decorated with American flags, and Ed McLaughlin led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mike Wunsch offered a welcome to all in attendance and a thank you for everyone who had prepared and brought food, or otherwise helped to make the the event a success.

The highlight of the day was the remarks of Board Member William Linhart. Bill recounted General Meade's multifaceted life and career, from his birth in Cadiz, Spain, his early education and attendance at the West Point Military Academy to his military service in the Civil War, and with Meade's post-war accomplishments, most notably his role in the design of Fairmount Park and his appointment as the park's first Commissioner. The planning committee is already looking forward to next years event, one to be sure filled with camaraderie, food, and tales of General Meade's life and service to the nation. – Mike Wunsch

Meade Society's Fall Trip to Annapolis, MD, October 6-8, 2018 - The General Meade Society annual fall three-day excursion to Annapolis began with its usual roundup of the troops at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein in the Northeast. Mounting our faithful steed—Hagey Bus #79, driven by our old favorite driver, Courtland Gee—we headed south to Maryland and the charming town of Annapolis.

Once in that quaint town, we debarked to tour the town and harbor, made livelier than usual with its annual boat show weekend. We visited the shops and strolled the streets down to the harbor to have lunch at one of the many pubs and dining places.

After lunch we headed up the street for the Banneker-Douglass Museum. It highlights the contributions of many famous African-American Maryland residents: Benjamin Banneker, James Pennington, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Matthew Henson, and Thurgood Marshall. There are also exhibits of black life in Maryland, African and African-American art. The Museum is the state's official repository of African-American material culture, and also has a library and archives.

Our tours began a little late as the Society sorted out the rest of the day without Betty (Mrs. Humphries) McCormick. We were shocked to learn that Betty had fallen and injured herself so severely as to be taken to the nearby hospital.

After tours of the Museum and the adjoining church that was once the Mt. Moriah African Methodist Episcopal Church, led by several wonderfully well-informed guides, we headed back up the hill around the beautiful Maryland State House to await our bus back to the hotel.

Later in early evening we boarded the bus once again to go to Ledo's Pizza for a dinner of pizza and other Italian victuals. Notwithstanding the rather sobering accident of one of our trip's planners, Betty McCormick, it was a fine day to begin our trip to Annapolis. – Ken Garson

On day two the Society enjoyed a walking tour lead by Zitzmann of the United States Naval Academy. The "Yard", as it is known to the locals, covers 338 acres and is home to 4,400 midshipmen and 600 faculty. Twenty-five academic majors are offered leading to a Bachelor of Science degree for all graduates. The midshipmen receive a monthly stipend of \$1,087.80, from which laundry, barber, cobbler, activities fees, yearbook and other service charges are deducted. Actual cash pay is \$100 per month for the first year, which increases each year thereafter.

Our first stop was to the Armel-Leftwich Visitor Center, named after two much decorated members of the Class of 1953: Captain Lyle Oliver Armel II, a Navy officer who died of cancer in 1989 and Lieutenant Colonel William Groom Leftwich, Jr., a Marine officer who was killed while flying a mercy mission in Vietnam in 1970. On display is a charred Soviet space capsule and an 84 seat there where the 12 minute film "To Lead and Serve", a review of the life of a midshipman is shown continuously.

Our next stop was Lejeune Hall, named after Lieutenant General John Archer Lejeune, commander of the Marine Second Division in France during World War 1. We walked through Athletic Hall of Fame where Heisman trophies won by Joe Bellino in 1960 and Roger Staubach in 1963 are displayed.

On our way to Bancroft Hall, where 4,000 midshipmen live we paused at the statue of Tecumseh, a bronze copy of the figurehead that was aboard the Delaware II when it was launched in 1820 in Norfolk (the figure actually represents Tamanend, a Delaware chief, though midshipmen call him Tecumseh).

In Bancroft Hall we visited an example to a midshipmen's room that measures 15 x 16 feet and has 2 occupants. Inside we also toured Memorial Hall, where artifacts, plaques, murals, paintings and other memorabilia honor all academy graduates who lost their lives while on duty.

We next stopped at the Naval Academy Museum, a collection of more than 50,000 artifacts and paintings, and the Class of 1951 Gallery of Ships, a collection of ship models dating back to the 17th century.

Our next to the last stop was the Chapel, also called the Cathedral of the Navy. Below the Chapel is the crypt of John Paul Jones.

Our last stop was the grave of Senator John McCain who died on August 25th. He graduated from Annapolis in 1958. – Joe Perry

On our last day we had to “saddle up” early, i.e., be checked out of the hotel and on the bus by 8:15 a.m. on Monday morning, but it was worth it to ensure that we would be able to spend a full two hours with Civil War re-enactor/Annapolis tour guide Mike Fitzpatrick.

In his Union private’s uniform, “Private Fitzpatrick” proved to be an excellent guide who was very knowledgeable about the history of Annapolis during the Civil War. With his assistant, “Mistress Lynn,” who was also in Civil War period attire and served as navigator for the bus driver, we set off to cross the Severn River to ascend a hilltop offering a lookout platform from which we could observe the magnificent vista below, including the town, the Yard (Naval Academy), and nearby Chesapeake Bay harbors. Unfortunately, we were beset with low clouds, but it was still a memorable view.

Mike told us en route that Annapolis was “the first Southern town to be occupied by the North in the Civil War.” Although Maryland never formally seceded, as it straddled the border between the Confederacy and the Union, its population was deeply divided between Southern sympathizers and Union loyalists. The leaders of the “upper crust” of Annapolis were decidedly in favor of secession. When war broke out in 1861, Annapolis had between 4500 and 5000 residents, of whom about 3000 were white and the remaining divided between free and enslaved blacks. Within a matter of a few months, the town would be occupied by 10,000 Union troops. No battles were fought in Annapolis, but because of its proximity to the B&O Railroad line linking Baltimore to Washington, D.C., its location was of critical strategic importance to the Union military.

The Naval Academy was removed to Newport, R.I. for the duration of the Civil War. Union troops under the command of General Benjamin Butler soon occupied the deserted Yard, and the General ordered that a hospital be established there. Early in the war, most of the soldiers there were ill with various diseases, but after Gettysburg, there was a huge influx of wounded. Later in the war, this large hospital complex became a receiving station for returning Union prisoners of war, including those who had suffered the atrocities of Belle Island, Andersonville, and other Confederate prisons.

We next visited the campus of St. John’s College (originally Prince Williams College, founded in the late 1600s), which served during the Civil War as the first Annapolis camp housing Union parolees. These were Union troops who had been captured by the Confederates, but were released after having accepted the terms of parole, i.e. that they would not return to their units to fight until they had been officially exchanged with their Southern counterparts. Mike told us that the 67th PA Volunteers served a turn of duty as provosts for this camp. Ironically, later in the war, after they had been sent back to the field and participated in one of the many battles of Winchester, VA, many of those same PA volunteers found themselves back at the camp – but now as internees!

Mike had much more information and many anecdotal stories to share with us about Annapolis during the Civil War, and our time together flew by. Our last stop with Mike was to the Annapolis National Cemetery. Although founded in 1862, it was not formally recognized as national cemetery until 1870 because there are at least nine confederates buried there, among about 2,500 identified Union troops and some 200 unknowns. There are also four women, volunteer nurses, laid to rest besides some of the same men they had cared for. In addition, there is one Russian sailor who died in a bar room brawl while in port at Annapolis. There is a complicated story of international intrigue as to how and why there were Russian naval ships anchored here in the winter of 1864; bottom line, to deflect an international crisis, this ordinary Russian sailor was honored with a state funeral, with all the trappings, by the U.S. government.

As the Meade Society is wont to do, we laid a memorial wreath to honor the service and sacrifice of the loyal Union soldiers and citizens who are buried at this national cemetery.

We returned downtown, bade farewell to “Pvt. Fitzpatrick,” “Miss Lynne,” and Annapolis, then headed north to Baltimore, with a lunch stop on the way at a Golden Corral Restaurant, where we availed ourselves of the abundant buffet selections. We arrived at Baltimore’s Inner Harbor in time to take a 2:00 p.m. harbor cruise, a 45-minute tour. As our visit to Baltimore coincided with its annual Fleet Week, there were various Navy ships at berths around the harbor, including the *U.S.S. Milwaukee* close to where we disembarked. Many of us wanted to take the 20-minute free public tour of the ship, but the security line was both very slow moving and very long, so we ran out of time before our scheduled 3:30 p.m. departure for Philadelphia. Nevertheless, it seemed a fitting follow-up to our visit to the Naval Academy to see so many fine ships and sailors.

After a brief rest stop en route, the bus pulled into the Cannstatter parking lot at 6:30 p.m., bringing to an end the 15th annual General Meade Society three-day fall trip. Many of us are already talking about where to go next year! – Kerry Bryan

Gettysburg Remembrance Day, November 23, 2018 - The General Meade Society held two honor ceremonies at General Reynolds Monument in the National Cemetery, followed by the annual honor ceremony for General Meade at his Equestrian Monument. We had large attendance and some distinguished guest speakers. The Parade went well. I marched with MOLLUS the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the US. I portrayed a G.A.R. Meade Post #1 GAR Post Commander (Col. Alfred Sellers Medal of Honor recipient at Gettysburg; Meade Post Commander; MOLLUS member; Union League member from Philadelphia who commanded the 90th Pennsylvania Volunteers at Gettysburg). – Andy Waskie

On the next page is our 2019 membership form for renewals and new members.

We want to continue our efforts in your behalf in the coming year.



2019
GENERAL GEORGE MEADE SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Kindly remit your 2019 dues payment on or before January 31, 2019.

As a member of **General Meade Society of Philadelphia, Inc.** your annual membership dues and contributions support the nation's only organization devoted to "promoting and preserving" the memory of the life and service of Major General George Gordon Meade. Members receive *The Dispatch* via email or by the USPS (additional fee required) as they choose, and also an invitation to all Society events and monthly meetings, including the annual business meeting in April.

Mail to:

The General Meade Society of Philadelphia, Inc.

P.O. Box 45556

Philadelphia, PA 19149

Annual membership dues cover the calendar year – January 1st to December 31st, 2017.

- _____ **\$10.00 Student Membership (18 years & younger)**
- _____ **\$20.00 Individual Membership**
- _____ **\$30.00 Family Membership**
- _____ **\$10.00 Additional for USPS mailing of *The Meade Post - Dispatch***
- _____ **Additional Tax-deductible donation to the *General Meade Society of Philadelphia***
- _____ **Contribution to the *William H. Bohmer Preservation Fund***
- _____ **General Meade Society Foundation (The General G. Meade School, Philadelphia)**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Check Number: _____ **Date:** _____

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