

THE DISPATCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GENERAL MEADE SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA
FALL 2019

"Forget Not His Deeds"

**General Meade Society
of Philadelphia, Inc.**
P.O. Box 45556
Philadelphia, PA 19149

The **General Meade Society of Philadelphia** is an educational non-profit & 501(c3) organization chartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the mission of the society is to promote and preserve the life and service of Maj-Gen. George Gordon Meade, (USA), commander of the Army of the Potomac.

The Executive Board of the General Meade Society of Philadelphia meets at the Cannstatter Volkstfest Verein, 9130 Academy Road in Northeast Philadelphia. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of January, April, September and December; the starting time is 7:00 PM; the meetings are open to all society members, friends and guests.

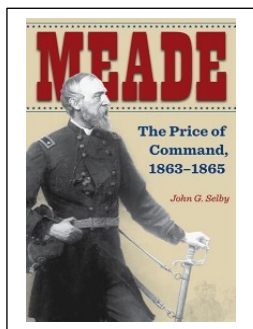
To Contact the Meade Society:
generalmeadesociety.org
meade@generalmeadesociety.org



The General visits his school! (See Page 3)

"GEORGE GORDON MEADE HAS NOT BEEN TREATED KINDLY BY HISTORY."

John G. Selby writes this of **George G. Meade** in his book, **Meade: The Price of Command, 1863-1865**, (Kent State Univ. Press, 2018). It is a sentiment of many who gathered at the Meade Symposium in April. The Symposium's speakers addressed the Meade Society's mission to rectify this error by covering the good general's career from before, during, and after the Civil War. Despite his beloved wife's entreaties to resign, Meade wrote: "I am working for Grant ... and for the cause and the country, and that it is my duty to do all I can to advance that cause."



There is an interesting interview with Prof. Selby at: **Civil War Books and Authors**
[<https://cwba.blogspot.com/2018/10/author-q-john-selby-and-meade-price-of.html>]

[>>> See Page 9 for more on the Symposium]

General Meade Society of Philadelphia Awards Its Scholarship

Anthony Patterson, who received our \$1,000 when he graduated from the **General Meade School** in 2013, has claimed his award. He had inquired about it in January, and is now attending **Community College of Philadelphia**. Anthony is studying **digital video** production.

Please join me in congratulating Anthony and wish him well in his future career! — *Jerry McCormick*

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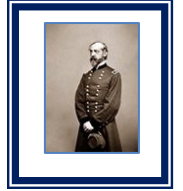
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ANNUAL MEADE SOCIETY FALL TRIP 2019



THE CIVIL WAR IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA



October 12-14, 2019

Saturday, October 12th –

Lunch in Bedford PA; Pittsburgh for an afternoon narrated boat cruise around the Three Rivers of the city; Hotel (Hampton Inn & Suites in suburban Pittsburgh; A. A. Humphries pizza party in a private room at the hotel.

Sunday, October 13th -

Hot breakfast, then spend the day touring Civil War sites in Pittsburgh, including Soldiers & Sailors Hall, Allegheny Cemetery, the Duquesne Incline *railroad*, and the *Pennsylvania Trolley Museum*; Dinner at the Hofbrauhaus in downtown Pittsburgh.

Monday, October 14th-

Hot breakfast, then to Carnegie, PA to tour G.A.R. Post 152 in the Carnegie Library; Carnegie Cemetery for a tour, and after lunch visit the Flight 93 Memorial, then return to Philadelphia.

Hagey Tours will again be our motor coach. The tour departs from the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein in Northeast Philly at 7:00 AM.

Price: **\$375.00 per person, double occupancy.** Your package cost includes: deluxe motor coach; driver tip; hotel accommodations; Saturday lunch; river cruise; pizza party; Sunday dinner; all fees/admissions; snacks & beverages on board; and free parking.

SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE !!

CALL or E- MAIL JERRY McCORMICK: (215) 848-7753

or email to: gedwinmc@msn.com

FOR INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER.



Here's a test of your Civil War knowledge! This dog is famous for his service. Who is he and what did he do?
... Answer on the trip!

General Meade Visits the School Named to Honor Him —



On May 31, 2019, at the **General George G. Meade School**, 1600 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, PA, **General George Meade (a.k.a Andy Waskie)** addressed 200 kindergarten, 2nd, 3rd and 5th grade students at the beginning of their annual end-of-school year “Play Day”. The General’s spirited remarks were well-received and many questions about the Civil War were answered. The students received rewards for achieving reading goals, attendance and all-around cooperation. The assembly program also included a class dance performance. — *Joe Perry*



***** ANNUAL MEADE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION *****

You are invited to the **Meade Society & Laurel Hill Cemetery** annual commemoration of our Philadelphian war hero on **December 31st** at the Gatehouse of the cemetery.

Toast the General’s Natal Day with champagne! **Ceremonies begin at 11:00 AM.**

Re-enactors welcome! Light refreshments will be served!

For more information, contact Andy Waskie at: awaskie01@gmail.com

The GMS Leister House Garden Project Reaches Its Tenth — and Last Cleanup

We held our final Leister Garden clean up on Saturday, May 18th, 2019. This completes 10 years of having the privilege and pleasure of working that hallowed ground. It truly has been an honor to be the only garden restoration volunteer AAP group in Gettysburg as a tribute to Lydia Leister and in memory of that historic three-day battle that devastated the little town of Gettysburg in 1863.



Tom and I would like to sincerely thank everyone who helped through the years. Some were very faithful and attended most clean ups, some came often, some came occasionally and some came once or twice to experience the honor of working battlefield soil. To those of you who came, whether it was multiple times or just one time, thank you! We hope it was an experience you will remember.

We were fortunate to have amazing weather for our final clean up. The group of nine of us (Pat, Ed, Jeanne, Tom O, Debbie, Ken and Jeanette, Tom and I) did what we could despite arriving to find the entire garden and surrounding area had been weed-whacked down.



Tom and I decided to give up this project for many reasons. For one, our group is basically in the 60s, 70s and 80s age group. It is hard work and we are all 10 years older. The other reasons have more to do with communication and personnel issues with the park. There were many individuals I dealt with that were very supportive and respectful. However, there were times I felt I was part of a political debate. So, when it becomes a struggle to volunteer services, is time to end it and move on. I think we all did a fantastic job, considering the permitted guidelines, restrictions and unexpected setbacks. Kudos to you all who participated. What else can I say but a simple, humble, heart-felt THANK YOU!

— *Ginny & Tom Benner*

MEADE SOCIETY SPRING TOUR 2019

On Saturday, May 4th, Meade Society members and friends traveled west for the **Civil War Sites of South Central Pennsylvania** tour, led by Jim Schmick, owner of the **Civil War and More Bookstore** in Mechanicsburg. Jim is the co-founder and current president of the **Camp Curtin Historical Society and Civil War Roundtable**. He has received numerous awards over the years for his tireless efforts to protect and provide recognition for the area's Civil War-related historical sites.

Jim guided us past downtown Carlisle sites pertaining to two of Ewell's three Divisions, including the Carlisle Court House, which still bears scars from Jeb Stuart's shelling of Carlisle, and the Civil War Memorial, originally known as the Soldiers' Monument, at the Old Courthouse Plaza. Our tour route followed General Jenkins' invasion route toward Harrisburg, including the Rupp House & Barn, the Confederate Hospital (now the library), the Albright House, the Bowman Home, a barn used by Jenkins' reconnaissance for observation area on June 30th, and Fort Couch where 12,000 New York National Guards camped with Pennsylvania Emergency Militia. In Mechanicsburg, we made a brief visit to Jim's Bookstore and enjoyed lunch at the Lin Buffet & Grill.

Jim arranged for us to tour the Rupp House, which had served as General Jenkins' headquarters. Now home to an insurance agency, it is filled with Civil War-related artwork and artifacts. Outside his former headquarters is the General Albert Jenkins Monument, designed by the Camp Curtin Historical Society. We visited the site of Fort Couch and the General Darius Couch Monument, also designed by the Camp Curtin Historical Society. Throughout our tour we saw waysides for Sporting Hill, the White Hall School, the Skirmish of Oyster's Point, and Lemoyne – Bridgeport Heights, all made possible by the Camp Curtin Historical Society.

Our next stop was downtown Harrisburg to visit the Pennsylvania State Civil War Flag restoration lab and storage facility. The staff pulled four surviving battle flags – the 11th Pennsylvania, the 61st Pennsylvania, the 83rd Pennsylvania and the 98th Pennsylvania – for us to view. The battle flags are stored on acid-free panels in custom-designed stainless steel storage units to protect them from light, dust, temperature fluctuations and humidity. The original flag staffs are stored separately, cross-referenced to their respective flags.

Our final stop was a guided tour of Harrisburg Cemetery, the oldest and largest cemetery in Harrisburg. A focal point is the c.1850 Caretakers Cottage, designed by noted architect A.J. Downing in the Gothic Revival style. Two of the Civil War-era notables buried here include Simon Cameron, Secretary of War and Minister to Russia under President Abraham Lincoln, and Major General John W. Geary, who later served as Governor of Pennsylvania from 1867-73. Harrisburg Cemetery also contains the graves of 155 Union and Confederate soldiers wounded at Gettysburg who later died at Camp Curtin or other temporary hospitals in Harrisburg.

Congratulations to **Jim Schmick** and **Jerry McCormick** for staging an enjoyable and educational Meade Society Spring Tour! — *Carol Ingald*

taphophilia

noun

passion and enjoyment for cemeteries. Often practices involve graveyard photography and/or art, epitaphs, interest in (famous) deaths, gravestone rubbing.

Singular term: *taphophile*

Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery on their GRAVE YARD GETAWAY



On Friday, May 10th, I joined thirty-five fellow members of the Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery on their GRAVE YARD GETAWAY motor coach trip to two famous cemeteries in Baltimore, Maryland: Green Mount and Westminster Hall. In spite of an ominous forecast of rain, the day turned out to be sunny and nice when we arrived at Green Mount Cemetery. We then were guided around by Wayne Schaumberg, the cemetery's official tour guide and historian. Green Mount was opened in 1838, and contains 65,000 'residents' now. Just like Laurel Hill, which was opened two years earlier, Green Mount contains the remains of governors, mayors, philanthropists (Johns Hopkins), business leaders, Civil War generals (Joe Johnston, Isaac Trimble), Lincoln Conspirators (J. W. Booth, S. Arnold, and M. O'Laughlin) and prominent ladies (Betsy Patterson Bonaparte, sister-in-law of Napoleon).

After Wayne's informative tour which ended at the Booth Plot. (Ironically, it was John Wilkes Booth's birthday, born May 10th, 1838.) We were allowed about thirty minutes to wander on our own and explore this beautiful historic cemetery.

We then headed to Lexington Market, where I among others enjoyed one of my favorite foods, Maryland backfin crab cakes! After lunch, we took the short walk to Westminster Hall Burial Ground and met Jeff Jerome, Curator Emeritus of the Baltimore Poe House & Museum. Jeff has been leading tours and devoting his life's work—forty-six years!—as a leading authority on Edgar Allan Poe.

We were led into the catacombs, which was the original graveyard of the property, purchased in 1786 by a congregation of the Presbyterian church. The congregation expanded greatly, and, in 1852, they constructed a church over the burial ground on brick piers for protection and maintenance. The church closed in 1977, and the site is now maintained by the University of Maryland school of law and has undergone major renovations.

After a very interesting, and as you can guess EERIE tour of the catacombs, Jeff pointed out the original grave of Poe and his ancestors, then we saw the modern monument where Poe was re-interred in 1875. (He died in 1849.) One interesting thing about the newer monument was that to complete its funding, about \$600 was donated by Philadelphia businessman George Childs, who is interred in a mausoleum at Laurel Hill!

This was my second trip to explore both cemeteries, having visited them previously on a Meade Society trip, but for those of us who enjoy exploring cemeteries (taphophiles), repeat visits are indeed worthwhile.

Many thanks to Nick McAllister and the staff of the Friends of Laurel Hill for planning and organizing a truly wonderful trip! — *Jerry McCormick*

Memorial Day with the GMS at Laurel Hill Cemetery

On **Sunday May 26th**, members of the community, the **Laurel Hill staff** and friends, the **General Meade Society**, **military units** and personnel and **veterans** gathered, and sundry sponsoring groups, gathered at **Laurel Hill Cemetery** to commemorate and honor veterans with speeches, music by the **Philadelphia Brigade Band** and the laying of wreathes.

The day was capped off by superb victuals and beverages served up by the **Kearney Kommissary** at the cemetery Gatehouse.

The day began with the dedication of two new grave markers at their hitherto unmarked resting places:

Andy Waskie told the audience about **Army Surgeon Richard Levis of the Army Medical Corps**; he was a Civil War captain in the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry. He served meritoriously to troops during the war.

Historian Russ Dodge told us about **Captain Charles E. Richards**, Co M, 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry, who was institutionalized after the war and spent the remaining thirty plus years in a New York asylum, perhaps a victim of the mental travails of the war that we characterize as PTSD.

We then proceeded to the grave of Philadelphia's most distinguished citizen, the victorious general of the **Battle of Gettysburg**, **George Gordon Meade** and placed wreathes at modest stone. **Ed Berna gave a wonderful keynote address to the crowd, one that captured the spirit of the day along with its history and provenance.**

The procession moved to the **Silent Sentry at GAR Meade Post #1** to place our final wreathes and the playing of "Taps" with a haunting echo of a distant trumpet.

The day's proceedings were covered by local **news channels ABC & NBC with video and photos**. Links to both Mr. Berna's speech, the ceremony's photos and video clips by the media are available on the **Meade Society web site** at:

<https://generalmeadesociety.org/memorial-day-observed-at-historic-laurel-hill-cemetery-2/>

What the GMS are Reading

This is an easy column to write! These books are the offerings of two speakers who addressed the audience of the Meade Symposium in April of this year at West Laurel Hill Cemetery: **John Selby** and **Tom Huntington**.

Professor **John G. Selby's *Meade: The Price of Command, 1863-1865*** (*Kent State Univ. Press, 2018*) made him a must-have speaker for the GMS annual symposium this year, whose theme—after two years covering the Spanish-American and The Great War— saw a return to our famed Philadelphian, the victor over Lee at the battle of Gettysburg: **George Gordon Meade**.

Selby's contention: That George Meade showed tremendous humility after turning Lee back at Gettysburg and encountering the aftermath of criticism for failing to end the war by annihilating the Army of Northern Virginia. Selby notes the general's professional frustrations, unwanted political intrigue, and relentless criticism, aided by his irascible temper. Overall, in Selby's assessment, the general paid a hefty "price of command." In the end, however, Selby argues that Meade should be considered "among the top three Union generals," following only Generals U.S. Grant and William T. Sherman. Selby's book offers an important account of General Meade's tenure as commander of the Army of the Potomac and works toward broadening our understanding of an oft-maligned Civil War commander.

This columnist must confess a certain bias for **Tom Huntington**, author of an earlier book about Meade. Huntington can write about Steely Dan and Frank Sinatra as well as Civil War! But putting that aside, let's say his new book **Maine Roads to Gettysburg**, (*Stackpole Books, 2018*) offers more than Joshua Chamberlain as the hero. Huntington, a Maine native now living near Gettysburg, recounts more than the bravery of the 20th Maine at Little Round Top. He covers earlier battles where Maine units fought: Bull Run (1st & 2nd), Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville prior to Gettysburg. In addition, he delineates the qualities and foibles of leaders and lesser lights from the Pine Tree State, a state that provided an outsized number of soldiers compared to its population other than the depicted movie hero. And, history aside, he is a *good* writer! John Foskett, a reviewer for **Civil War News**, recommends (July 2019 issue) with a thumbs up.

Civil War buffs would certainly enjoy a second book rounding out the odyssey of the men of that small state who gave so much to preserve our Union!

— Ken Garson



2020
GENERAL GEORGE MEADE SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Kindly remit your 2020 dues payment on or before January 31, 2020.

As a member of **General Meade Society of Philadelphia**, 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, and also an invitation to all Society events and monthly meetings, including the annual business meeting in April.

Mail to:
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Annual membership dues cover the calendar year – January 1st to December 31st, 2020.

- _____ \$10.00 **Student Membership (18 years & younger)**
- _____ \$20.00 **Individual Membership**
- _____ \$30.00 **Family Membership**
- _____ \$250.00 **Individual Lifetime Membership**
- _____ \$450.00 **Family of Two (2) Lifetime Membership**

- _____ **Additional tax-deductible donation to the *General Meade Society of Philadelphia***
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

**Recap of the Annual Meade Society History Symposium
at West Laurel Hill Cemetery Conservatory**

On **April 14th**, from noon until 5 pm four knowledgeable scholars & speakers detailed the **“Life and Legacy of Philadelphia’s Victorious General”** in **West Laurel Hill Cemetery** at its Conservatory:

Dr. Andy Waskie began the day with **“Meade’s Early Life up to the Mexican War”**.



**Dr. Andy Waskie discussed
Meade’s
early life up to 1846**

Meade was born to American parents in Cádiz, Spain. At the time, his father was United States Consul and Naval agent, who had run into financial and legal difficulties due in part to the Napoleonic Wars. Meade returned to Philadelphia with his mother and siblings in 1817. He grew up and was well educated in the classical tradition in Philadelphia. Meade obtained an appointment to West Point and graduated in 1835. For a year, he served with the 3rd U.S. Artillery in Florida, fighting against the Seminole Native Americans, before resigning. He turned to civil engineering in railroad construction. Later, he was appointed a civilian engineer for the US Coastal Survey, working with boundary surveys, the hydrology of rivers, breakwaters, etc., but also became famed as a builder of lighthouses. He reentered the army in 1842 as a Second Lieutenant in the corps of topographical engineers, still assigned to the Coastal Survey.

Meade served in the Mexican War, assigned to the staffs of Generals Zachary Taylor, William J. Worth, and Robert Patterson, and was brevetted to first lieutenant for gallant conduct at the Battle of Monterrey. His career as a military engineer, chiefly involved in lighthouse construction in Florida and New Jersey (Meade designed Barnegat Lighthouse on Long Beach Island, Absecon Lighthouse in Atlantic City, and Cape May Lighthouse in Cape May) , was spectacular, both in the Coastal Survey, until appointed superintendent of the Geodetic Survey of the Great Lakes in 1857, on which he worked until the 1861 eruption of the Civil War.
— *Dr. Andy Waskie*

Our second speaker, **Dr. Jennifer Murray**, who entitled her address, **“Meade in the Mexican and Civil War up to Gettysburg**. Jennifer is an American military historian, with a research and teaching specialization in the U.S. Civil War.



**Dr. Jennifer Murray covered
Meade’s actions in the
Mexican War to the battle
of Gettysburg**

Her first book, ***On A Great Battlefield: The Making, Management, and Memory of Gettysburg National Military Park, 1933-2013***, was published by the University of Tennessee Press in 2014. Her current book project is a biography of George Gordon Meade, tentatively titled ***Meade at War***. This book will be published by Louisiana State University Press as part of the *Conflicting Worlds Series*. Her research on Meade affords an opportunity to explore issues of high command within a fractured and politicized Army of the Potomac and addresses questions on the nature of civil-military relations, popular opinion, the media, and notions of a decisive battle.

By early 1845, the George and Margaretta had three children. John Sergeant Meade had been born on November 4, 1841. A second son, christened George, was born on November 2, 1843, and the couple's first daughter, Margaret, was born on February 26, 1845.

And then, on August 12, 1845, Lieutenant Meade unexpectedly received orders to report to General Zachary Taylor at Aransas Bay, Texas. A boundary dispute with Mexico was heading toward open war, and Taylor's small force was expected to patrol the border and be prepared if the negotiations failed to be resolved peacefully. Meade agreed with Taylor's assessment that war was unlikely. He wrote his wife, Margaretta, "Our duty is peaceful, will be peacefully accomplished, and there is no probability of hostilities on either side."

As a topographical engineer Meade performed map making and survey work. Life in camp was agreeable and Meade enjoyed running into associates and making new acquaintances, like Captain George McCall, who would be Meade's commander in the Pennsylvania Reserves. Young lieutenant Ulysses Grant served in McCall's company.

The American forces left camp on March 8. Traveling with the advance troops, Meade kept busy scouting routes, selecting campsites and mapping the flat and arid land.

On April 25, 1846 war was declared. Now that the embers had been fanned into flame, Taylor feared the Mexicans would attack his depot at Point Isabel on the coast and cut off his supplies.

On May 1, he took part of his forces, including Lieutenant Meade, with him to Point Isabel to relieve the fort and return with his supplies. They left the fort on May 7. The next day, Taylor fought the battle of Palo Alto. There Meade had his baptism of fire. He wrote home to Margaretta, "An officer of the General's staff had his horse shot under him, not two yards from me, and some five horses and men were killed at various times right close to me."

The war continued its slow progress. Taylor decided to capture Monterrey. Meade reached its outskirts of on September 19. The next day he was assigned to accompany General William Worth on a wide swing around Monterrey to approach the hills from behind. On September 23, Worth sent Meade on a reconnaissance to the city below. He returned with word that the Mexicans had abandoned the western sections of town to take up a central defensive position in the city square.

On September 24, Meade wrote Margaretta a quick note about the capture of Monterrey. "Again return thanks to God for my providential escape from danger. Our little army appeared before this place on the 20th instant, finding it strongly fortified and garrisoned by about ten thousand men. We have been pretty much ever since engaged in fighting, and have suffered some terrible losses ..."

Lieutenant Meade returned to Philadelphia and was heartily welcomed back by his former commander Major Hartman Bache who had was in charge of the construction of lighthouses and surveying the Delaware Bay. He set to work on the yet uncompleted Brandywine lighthouse. The Major also sent him south to the Florida coast to survey possible sites for lighthouses. Meade continued with lighthouse work until October 1849, when he received orders to report to General David Twiggs. Trouble with Seminole Indians necessitated the construction of army outposts connected by roads. Meade was assigned this task.

In 1856, Meade was transferred from coastal duty and sent to Detroit to assist with the ongoing survey of the Great Lakes. Meade would later write that he considered his work on coastal lighthouses and the lakes

survey as among the most important duties of his career.

At the beginning of the Civil War Meade was commissioned a brigadier general of volunteers. Meade quickly immersed himself in the new details of a commander of troops.

On June 26, 1862 Meade commanded a brigade in Virginia during the Battle of Beaver Dam Creek, also known as the Battle of Mechanicsville. It was the first major engagement of the Seven Days Battles during the Peninsula Campaign. Meade's four regiments went into the battle at different times and places on the field. As a result, Meade could only ride from place to place, rally any faltering units he saw, and encourage his men.

On June 30th, the sixth day of the Seven Days Battles, Meade was wounded when a bullet hit him in the upper right side and ranged down, exiting from his back just above his hip. Meade was forced to remain inactive while his wound slowly healed. He returned to duty in time for the Battle of Antietam, this time in the command of a division. The Battle opened shortly after dawn on September 17, the single bloodiest day in American military history. During the battle, Meade took temporary command of the First Corp following the wounding of General Hooker.

Meade next saw action as a major general during the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 11-15, 1862, where his division of 15 regiments lost most of their officers, although Meade himself survived the battle unscathed despite having been exposed to heavy artillery fire.

At the Battle of Chancellorsville, April 30, 1863 to May 6, 1863, Meade commanded the Fifth Corps that sat idly by waiting for orders from Hooker that never came. Meade urged Hooker to let the Fifth Corps attack the enemy flank. But Hooker forbade any attacks. Shortly after the battle General Alexander S. Webb wrote a letter home. "I wish you would tell all, that General Meade was head and shoulders above all out in the field. He advised the attacks which were not made, and which would have gained the day.

He asked to be allowed to attack with his corps, supported by Reynolds; it is refused. He advised no to fall back. And since this battle he has received messages from three senior generals stating that they would willingly serve under him." — *Joe Perry*

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Dr. John Selby was the symposium's third speaker, highlighting his book ***Meade: The Price of Command, 1863-1865***, to focus on the good general and his career from Gettysburg until the end of the war.



Dr. John G. Selby covered the general's career from Gettysburg to the end of the Civil War

Professor Selby spoke of the need to re-evaluate, in his considered opinion, the career of one of the Civil War's greatest Union generals, a man who was unreasonably criticized by his subordinates, some of whom he refused to sack for minor failings. Selby cited Meade as the longest-serving commander of the Army of the Potomac through various brutal campaigns up to Appomattox. Serving under Grant, Meade was overshadowed in the media and endured an environment of treacherous political maneuvering by rivals. Meade even offered to resign but was urged to continue by Grant to remain as a commander.

Selby used the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, original Meade letters, and letters and diaries

journals, and the commentaries of contemporaries to show a different side of Meade. Selby contends Meade was an active and thoughtful and enterprising commander. Meade was a sensitive man unaware of the political dimensions of his military career. — *Ken Garson*

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Our final speaker of the day is well-known to many of us, as he is not only a fellow member of the Society, but also the author of ***Searching for George Gordon Meade: The Forgotten Victor of Gettysburg***. It was **Tom Huntington's** task to present an overview of the General's last years, from **the end of the Civil War until his death in November 1872**.



**Tom Huntington addressed
Meade's
career & life after the Civil War**

General Meade rode triumphantly in the Grand Review of the Army of the Potomac held on May 24, 1865 in Washington, D.C. Flowers were strewn in his path, and he was greeted with shouts of "Huzzah!" before he took his place in the reviewing stand, where he joined General Grant and Sherman and members of the Cabinet who had served under the recently martyred President Lincoln. He had served faithfully and competently as Commander of the Army of the Potomac longer than any other general, and the accolades were well deserved.

But this triumphant moment would be followed by disappointment. Meade fully expected to be promoted to Lt. General, given his seniority and service record. It was a shock when the vainglorious Philip Sheridan was promoted over Meade.

Nevertheless, Meade never swerved in fulfilling his duties. He was called into action to head off the Fenian Rebellion on 1867, an attempt by Irish-American patriots, many of them veterans of the Union Army, to invade Canada with the hope of forcing Great Britain to loosen its despotic grip on Ireland. Meade hurried up to East Port, Maine, where he successfully intercepted an arms shipment before negotiating an end to the uprising. He even arranged for the Irish rebels to obtain free railroad passes so that they could return to their homes.

That same year, 1867, under the Military Act of Reconstruction, Meade was appointed head of the Atlantic Division. He subsequently was placed in charge of the Third Military Division, which included the oversight of Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. The War was officially over, but the forces of ex-Confederate white supremacists were rapidly regaining power, resulting in outbreaks of violence against the newly emancipated African-Americans. Meade was challenged to maintain the tenuous peace.

He spent his last years in Philadelphia, where he served as Vice President of the newly founded Fairmount Park Commission. He helped to plan the Park, where he would then frequently go for rides mounted on his retired war horse, Old Baldy.

Meade had been subject to attacks of bronchitis and pneumonia since June 30, 1862, when he was shot through the lung at the Battle of Glendale during the Peninsula Campaign. It would take ten years, but eventually George Gordon Meade died from this wound. At age 56, he succumbed to pneumonia on November 6, 1872. His life of service was honored with a huge funeral, and today, thanks to historians like Tom Huntington and to the General Meade Society, his deeds are not forgotten. —*Kerry Bryan*

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of Philadelphia, Inc.
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