



# THE DISPATCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GENERAL MEADE SOCIETY  
OF PHILADELPHIA – FALL 2021

**“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(c)(3) 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 p.m., meetings are open to all society members, friends and guests.

**To Contact the Meade Society:**  
<https://generalmeadesociety.org>

*Of interest in this issue:*

- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of the Meade Society. Dinner on Saturday November 13, 2021.
- Annual Fall Trip has been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Treasurer’s Report
- In memory of Betty McCormick

Greetings Members, Friends and Partners of the General Meade Society,  
We have reached a milestone in the history of our organization and enterprise, the 25th Anniversary of the Founding of the Society on General Meade’s Birthday December 31, 1996 at Laurel Hill Cemetery.

After our annual Birthday Ceremony for General Meade, Victor of the Battle of Gettysburg and Savior of the Nation, which began with just a few supporters in 1990 (175th Anniversary), each year thereafter, a larger number of supporters would gather, troops participated, wreaths were laid and speeches proclaimed the honorable service of General Meade, his veterans and all veterans who served, sacrificed and have passed on were heard. Over the years the event has become iconic in the patriotic and ceremonial calendar of events. The Society, its members and those who attend and participate have made the annual Anniversary Birthday Gala the epic it has become.

As founder and president I am humbled and proud of our role in promoting the memory of a nearly forgotten hero, George G. Meade and brought him into the bright sunshine of memory. While achieving this, we follow in the footsteps of the Veterans of the Grand Army whose Post #1 bears the Meade name and the Loyal Legion which honors General Meade as a valued member and companion.

Now in the present, the traditions continue with many sponsors, whom among are the veterans of American Legion Post 405 at the Union League, as well as the Meade Society and many dedicated co-sponsors.

This year 2021 has been a rough & tumble time for all of us, but we continue our ancient duty and pledge to honor Meade, his veterans and all veterans. We will gather on Saturday, November 13th at 5:00 p.m. at the Cannstatter (founded by Union Veterans) to celebrate our 25 years of official existence and enjoy each other’s company at the Dinner Gala. We will recount past members, relate memories and feature the mission and goals of our Society. I would especially thank the unstinting efforts of the members of the Board of Directors and all members for the help and support they have given over the years without which the Society could not have endured!

“Forget NOT his deeds” is our motto.

I look forward to the next 25 years and beyond.

With cordial greetings,  
Andy Waskie, Ph.D., President & Founder

**Board of Directors - Officers**

- Andy Waskie, PhD, President
- Mike Peter, Vice President
- Jerry McCormick, Treasurer
- Michael Wunsch, Corresponding Secretary
- Joe Hauntmann, Recording Secretary

**Board Members**

- |              |                 |                |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Albert El    | Jeanne O’ Toole | Bill Linhart   |
| Carol Ingald | Tom O’ Toole    | Ed Zongolowicz |
| Herb Kaufman | Joe Perry       | John Voris     |
| Tom Kearney  | Joseph Pugh     | Bernie Bujak   |

## Memorial Day Observed at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery



The Annual Memorial Day ceremony was observed at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery, on Sunday, May 30, 2021. It recreated the Original G.A.R. Decoration Day Service of the Grand Army Post #1 in 1868.

Everyone is always welcome to attend and participate in the ceremony. Laurel Hill is the site of the first Memorial Day Observance in Philadelphia on this date in 1868.

The event started with a procession to the grave of General Meade and a call to order, presentation of colors and an Invocation Service by Albert El, Chaplin of Legion Post 405. This was followed by a musical interlude by the Philadelphia Brigade Band, laying of wreaths and a volley followed by Taps.

Special bronze veterans' markers were dedicated at the graves of two previously unmarked Civil War veterans researched and found by Russ Dodge, a LHC and Civil War historian. They are:

**Theodore W. Deklyne** served as a Naval officer on board the USS Mystic during the Civil War, and was a Colonel in the post-war Louisiana National Guard, where he worked to implement Reconstruction policies and protect enfranchisement of African-Americans, most of whom had been enslaved prior to the war. He died of yellow fever at the age of 29.



**Dr. George Huhn** served in the 154th Pennsylvania Infantry before being assigned as a post Surgeon to Camp William Penn, the training camp paid for by the Union League to train the African-Americans soldiers who would go on to make up 11 different United States Colored Troop regiments. He died from his exertions in October 1864.



The closing ceremonies continued with wreath-laying, speeches, music and honor guards. The day capped off by a benediction delivered by Legion Post 405 Chaplain Albert El. Refreshments were served after the ceremony.

A sincere thank you from the Meade Society and Laurel Hill Cemetery to the participants and contributors who made this day a very special day in celebration of its wonderful citizen! Be safe!

Additional photos of the day are available on the General Meade Society website:

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

The event was co-sponsored by the General Meade Society of Philadelphia; Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery; American Legion Post #405; MOLLUS, the Union League; the Sons of Union Veterans; the Patriotic Order Sons of America, and the Philadelphia Brigade Band.

Tours of the historic cemetery are available. For information, call: (215) 228-8200.

<https://thelaurelhillcemetery.org>

## **In Memory of Betty McCormick**

Betty McCormick, a dedicated member passed away in August 2021. She was energetic and contributed to the success of our annual trips, kitchen and group events. The membership wishes to express our condolences to her spouse, Jerry McCormick, and hope that we can keep our dedication level up to her level. She will be missed.

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### **A Tribute by Tom Kearney**

Judi and I said good-bye today to a most wonderful and exciting lady. Betty Louise McCormick was one of the most assertive, adamant, cordial and vibrant women we know. We met Betty and her husband Jerry (My Brother From Another Mother) back around 2000 when they became members of The General Meade Society. We liked them immediately. It was Betty who came up with the idea that Judi and I become the refreshment committee for all of the Society's events where refreshments were served. This very quickly developed into The Kearney Kommissary, and it served the society well at their two big events - General Meade's Birthday Celebration and their annual symposium for 15 wonderful years. Betty and Jerry were together for 53 years and were married for 45 of those years. She and Jerry, who served as GMS treasurer, organized all the Spring and Fall field trips for many, many years. When Betty worked at Amy's Gift Shop in the Reading Terminal Market, I always made it a point to stop and see her when I was getting ready to take the train home to Ambler after a day of volunteering at the Roman Catholic High School alumni office. Betty and Jerry were both active as Friends Of Laurel Hill Cemetery and Friends Of West Laurel Hill Cemetery. Jerry was also the officiant at her service and delivered a wonderful eulogy of her time since he is also a docent and tour guide at both cemeteries. Betty will be dearly missed by all. Rest In Peace Dear Betty, Judi and I were so fortunate to share your time here on earth.

<https://www.remembermyjourney.com/Memorial/22591>

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### **A SINCERE THANK YOU**

Hi Everyone,

I just wanted to extend our family's sincere thanks to all of you who attended the services for Betty and sent messages, cards, letters, and generous donations to the non-profit groups (including the General Meade Society) in her memory.

Because of the crossover of all of our local Civil War groups (Del Val, GMS, GAR Museum, Old Baldy, etc.) Betty was a well-known person. Yes, it was because of me and what I did, but as John Voris said "she worked tirelessly behind the scenes at all the events to ensure their success." Anyone who ever went on the highly successful GMS bus trips knew that their success was due greatly to her tireless and precise planning. Her assistance to Andy and me was always appreciated.

She was, of course, primarily involved with the GMS, but whenever other groups such as the Friends of Laurel Hill needed help, she was there.

I don't know what she personally thought of General George Meade (the real one). Unlike myself, history wasn't her strong point. I do know that her favorite Union general was John Fulton Reynolds (she developed a deep admiration and friendship with Mike Riley, former first-person portrayer of JFR).

In closing, I'll leave you with a note I got from Kerry Bryan. She said "Betty is now handing out snacks in Heaven!" Anyone who has ever gone on the Meade bus trips or been at a Meade Society event will take that to heart.

That is what she was, always thinking of others first. Please remember her fondly, as I certainly will.

Again, thank you all,  
Jerry McCormick

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**25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GENERAL MEADE SOCIETY DINNER**  
**NOVEMBER 13, 2021**

Join us for a special dinner to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the General Meade Society on Saturday, November 13, 2021, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the CANNSTATTER VOLKSFEST VEREIN, 9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114.

The storied history of the Society will be honored with tributes, photos, etc. and all attendees will receive a complimentary GMS 25th Anniversary souvenir badge as a memento. We will also present the traditional Award of Merit and Legion of Honor awards.

Cost is \$60 per person-includes wine toast, choice of entrée (beef, chicken, salmon or vegetarian), salad, side dishes, coffee/tea, and dessert, and a souvenir badge. A cash bar will also be available.

For reservations, e mail JERRY MC CORMICK at [gedwinmc@msn.com](mailto:gedwinmc@msn.com) or call (215) 848-7753. Deadline for registrations is November 3rd.

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**CANCELLED: ANNUAL FALL TRIP**  
**OCTOBER 9 – 11, 2021**

**GENERAL MEADE SOCIETY FALL EXCURSION, OCTOBER 9-11, 2021:**  
**ALEXANDRIA VA, FAIRFAX COUNTY VA, WASHINGTON DC, & THE NEW U.S. ARMY MUSEUM**

The annual fall trip has been cancelled due to the pandemic and will be rescheduled once conditions allow for close contact in a closed environment. Until then, we are at the mercy of circumstances beyond our control.

Many travelers who signed up for the 2020 trip, which was cancelled, and let their deposits ride for the 2021 trip, which was also cancelled, can let their deposits ride for the next planned trip or get a refund. If you would like a refund contact Jerry McCormick at (215) 848-7753 or [gedwinmc@msn.com](mailto:gedwinmc@msn.com).

THANKS! Jerry

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**Odds and Ends**

**2019 Annual Trip to Pittsburgh**

Those who took the 2019 trip to Pittsburgh and visited the site of the 1862 explosion at the Allegheny Arsenal in Lawrenceville, PA and would like more information on it please follow the link and just listen, no work required on your part. The site was the greatest loss of civilian life in one day during the Civil War but it is mostly forgotten as it happened on the same day that the greatest loss of military life in one day, Antietam. It is presented by the "History Guy", who does many presentations on other historic topics.

<https://youtu.be/wtQFJKHLzM4>

A few links to the battle of Gettysburg – once you click on one, you will see many other topics on the battle.

**American Battlefield Trust**

Devil's Den at Gettysburg  
Little Round Top

<https://youtu.be/JBpeA7jxsTs>  
<https://youtu.be/ePcLyOntjTA>

**Ranger Matt Atkinson**

The Peach Orchard  
Little Round Top  
Devil's Den

<https://youtu.be/yulcQakhRAY>  
<https://youtu.be/npiGxKIghtY>  
<https://youtu.be/vEmGazv4k2s>

**Gettysburg National Park Service**

The Wheatfield  
Pickett's Charge & Archer's Brigade

[https://youtu.be/gvv\\_MbYDspA](https://youtu.be/gvv_MbYDspA)  
<https://youtu.be/MK2YKaZkLaQ>

## On the Web

Living history General Meade presentation by Andy Waskie. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTGFEiQ48cE>

## Upcoming Events

Due to the COVID-19 virus, many 2021 events required reduced attendance or were postponed. Please use this link for updated information for any restricted or rescheduled events.

<https://generalmeadesociety.org/upcoming-events>

**October 9, 10, 11, 2021 - CANCELLED Fall Excursion** to the new U.S. Army Museum at Ft. Belvoir, WWII Memorial, river cruise, etc.

### **November 13, 2021 (Saturday night event)**

Since the annual Brunch and Symposium have been cancelled for 2021, the Meade Society will combine the two for a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner and award presentation.

**November 10, 2021 - U.S. Marine Corps Birthday** at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 11 a.m. at the grave of General Jacob Zeilin.

### **November 20, 2021**

Remembrance Day 2021 in Gettysburg. At the General Meade Equestrian Monument, 10:30 a.m.

### **December 31, 2021**

Annual George Meade Birthday Celebration at Laurel Hills Cemetery, 12 noon.

## Past Events

(and web links for more information)

### **May 23, 2021 Flag Placement**

Gravesite placement of veterans' flags at Laurel Hill Cemetery

<https://generalmeadesociety.org/flag-placement-for-memorial-day-at-laurel-hill-cemetery/>

### **May 30, 2021 Memorial Day**

Annual Memorial Day Observed at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery

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

### **October 2, 2021**

Octavius V. Catto Ceremony at Philadelphia City Hall & the Union League [Octavius V. Catto Ceremony 2021 | General Meade Society](#)

## Treasurer's Report

As with many other non-profit organizations, the General Meade Society also felt the effects of the continuing uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its delta variant. Membership renewals and donations waned during the second and third quarters (April-September).

However, due to the strong receipts of the first quarter (January-March), as I reported in the last Dispatch, our treasury continues to be very solvent. Two receipts for it are noteworthy. First long time board member and supporter, Dr. Joseph Pugh became a LIFETIME MEMBER, and second, extremely generous donations to the GMS in memory of my wife, Betty have now totaled almost \$700. Thank you Prof. Pugh and those who thought so much of Betty.

As a result of our treasury status, we were able to continue our mission of helping our other partner organizations by donating the following monies:

-Friends of Laurel Hill/West Laurel Hill - \$300 for their help with the Memorial Day events and \$70 for their 2 for 1 Veterans' Marker Drive, in addition sponsoring a \$500 ad in the Grave Digger's Ball program.

-A \$500 donation to the G.A.R. Civil War Museum to help with expenses during their move to a new home on Frankford Avenue.

- A \$400 donation to the Union League of Philadelphia to sponsor a table for the upcoming luncheon in honor of O.V. Catto.

As we enter the fourth quarter, we thank you for your continued support, and once again we will be sending handy 2022 pocket calendars to all those who renew their dues with the General Meade Society next year.

Looking forward to a bright 2022!

Thanks,  
Jerry McCormick, Treasurer

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**Past 2021 Event**

**GRAVESITE PLACEMENT  
OF VETERAN'S FLAGS  
MAY 23, 2021**

The group and volunteers met at the gatehouse of Laurel Hill Cemetery, at 10:00 a.m. The group placed U.S. flags on the graves of veterans of all wars. The cemeteries covered include Laurel Hill, Mt. Peace and St. James the Less. Refreshments and lunch provided. Laurel Hill Cemetery contains the graves of thousands of Civil War veterans. Many of those who engaged in battle, fighting on the sides of both the Union and Confederacy or on the home front now rest at Laurel Hill. The site also holds sacred the remains of many prominent Civil War-era Philadelphians, including volunteer nurses, surgeons, and supporters of the war effort. Open to the Public.

**Laurel Hill Cemetery**  
3822 Ridge Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19132  
Free Parking is available  
(215) 228-8200

<https://www.thelaurelhillcemetery.org>

**Future 2021 Events**

**U.S. MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY  
NOVEMBER 10, 2021**

U.S. Marine Corps Birthday Observance will be at the grave of General Jacob Zeilin, 7<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps. Call (215) 228-8200 for details. <https://www.thelaurelhillcemetery.org>

Dr. Andy Waskie: awaski01@gmail.com or  
(215) 423-3930

**REMEMBRANCE DAY IN GETTYSBURG  
NOVEMBER 20, 2021**

General Meade & his Generals and the veterans of the Battle of Gettysburg Honor/Dedication Ceremonies will be held during the Remembrance Day Observance and honoring all commanders and veterans of the Battle. Meet at the General Meade Equestrian Monument at 10:30 a.m. Contact Jerry McCormick at (215) 848-7753 or [gedwinmc@msn.com](mailto:gedwinmc@msn.com) for information.

The volunteers.....*Thank You!*



## **OCTAVIUS V. CATTO CEREMONY AT PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL & THE UNION LEAGUE SATURDAY OCTOBER 2, 2021**

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, led by society president Anthony Waskie, PhD (MC), several members of the General Meade Society of Philadelphia, and the Catto Society participated in the Memorial Honor Ceremony of the 150th Anniversary of the Assassination of Major Octavius V. Catto, the ceremony was held at the Catto Monument at the South Front of City Hall, in Philadelphia, PA.



Honoring the great African American equal rights and military leader, O.V. Catto (1839-1871), the ceremony was attended by military units, period civilians, veterans, and heritage groups.



The Keynote Address was delivered by BG (Ret) David Wood, of American Legion Post 405, of the Union League of Philadelphia, the speech can be found on the society's website.

Following the ceremonies at City Hall, at the Union League of Philadelphia, (Meade Room) the Pennsylvania National Guard Award Luncheon & Medal Ceremony was held, where the Armed Services Council of the Union League presented the Major O.V. Catto Awards to deserving PA Guardsmen.

**The Independence Hall Association**  
an excellent website on O.V. Catto at:  
<https://www.catto.ushistory.org/>

## **G.A.R. CIVIL WAR MUSEUM**

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum & Library, after 63 years on Griscom Street, is moving to the historic Lewis-Pattison House at 8110 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia. The site was originally owned by Thomas Holme, the man for whom the Holmesburg neighborhood was named. Holme sold the property to Robert Lewis and his wife, who built the original stone portion of the house in 1805. The rear portion of the house, built in 1857, is frame construction. The location is more accessible for parking and public transportation and offers more room for the G.A.R. Civil War Museum's programs.

President Joe Perry stated that to accomplish the monumental task of moving the museum over the next few months we will need assistance and financial support. If you can volunteer time to assist with the move, please contact the Museum at [garmuslib1866@gmail.com](mailto:garmuslib1866@gmail.com). The costs of certified archival containers, moving material and moving charges are quite expensive. In addition the G.A.R. website is: <https://garmuslib.org> or you can call the Museum at their new number (215) 613-0350.

### **FREE G.A.R. MUSEUM ZOOM PROGRAM**

The G.A.R. Civil War Museum offers a free virtual online program on the first Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. The monthly Zoom program is popular and covers various Civil War topics, and averages 60 to 100 registrants.

For registration and sign-in instructions, please RSVP to [garmuslib1866@gmail.com](mailto:garmuslib1866@gmail.com).

The November 7<sup>th</sup> program will be presented by historian Michael Jesberger on the 1913 reunion of the Civil War attended by 53,407 veterans.

The December 5<sup>th</sup> program is a special on the "History's Mysteries of American Holiday Traditions". Not a Civil War topic, but trivia at its best and is presented by Herb Kaufman.

<https://garmuslib.org/future-events>



**2022**  
**GENERAL GEORGE MEADE SOCIETY**  
**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**Kindly remit your 2022 dues payment on or before January 31, 2022.**

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:*

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

Annual membership dues cover the calendar year – January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$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***
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Contribution to the *William H. Boehmer Preservation Fund***
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Contribution to the *General Meade Society Foundation***  
**(The General George G. Meade School, School District of Philadelphia)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$10.00 Additional for USPS paper mailing of *The Meade Post – Dispatch***

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!**