



CAMPAIGN 32 - SKIRMISH 5

Program: Andy Johnson & General James Longstreet in East Tennessee



General James Longstreet

We are delighted to present one of our own long-time members this month, Andy Johnson. Andy is a 1991 graduate of Lafayette College where he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering. He continues in this profession today, but also continues with his lifelong obsession, the American Civil War. Since the mid 1990s, Andy has been working on a narrative history of the Toombs-Benning

Brigade. The brigade first served in D. R. Jones' Division, then John Bell Hood's Division, and finally Charles W. Field's Division. The brigade was part of Longstreet's Corps from Second Manassas to the end of the war with a combat record second to none.

Winter and Operation Snowflake

For weather-related cancellations, please tune to either radio station **WAEB AM (790 on your dial) or B104 FM.** If you have computer access and don't want to listen through the many listings on the radio go to www.waeb.com and click on

Those of us who were fortunate enough to attend our round table's June 2008 Hook Trip led by Andy, were treated to a most informative and enjoyable day in Gettysburg following the footsteps of the Toombs-Benning Brigade in the great battle.

General James Longstreet's performance during the Civil War has been the subject of heated controversy almost from when the guns fell silent at Appomattox. Andy's program will review Longstreet's military performance from the fall of 1863, through the spring of 1864. Separated from General Lee in the east, Longstreet served under General Braxton Bragg in north Georgia, and then exercised independent command in Tennessee. These campaigns had significant impact on the outcome of the war, and Longstreet's actions and decisions provide insight into his strategic, tactical, and administrative capacities.

Join us in welcoming the New Year. We don't have many programs on the War in the West, so this will be an especially informative evening for many of us. Get your dinner reservations in early and, as usual, guests are most welcome.

Operation Snowflake. Or, you can visit the CWRT website – www.cwrteasternpa.org – where any meeting change information will be posted. If you still have doubts, please call Jeff Stocker at (work) 610-437-5664 or at (home) 610-867-5178.

TUESDAY, January 5, 2010

Attention to Field Orders:

All Members and guests of the Lehigh Brigade are ordered to the **Four Points by Sheraton, 3400 Airport Rd., Allentown, Pa.**, on the above date.

Sutler’s Call 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Mess Call 6:30 p.m.

Program7:30 p.m.

SpeakerLarry Alexander

The deadline for making dinner reservations is

Wednesday, December 30, 2009.

Please call one of the Brigade Clerks listed below:

Jeff Stocker -----610-867-5178

jsmw@ptd.net

Carol Detweiler ---- 215-234-4884

cdetweiler01@comcast.net

Website: www.cwrteasternpa.org

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Brigade Call: Ed Root

As Civil War “buffs” we would all have loved the opportunity to either meet a veteran of the “Late Unpleasantness” or at least speak to someone who did have that personal contact. Obviously, for most of us to have done so would be very rare indeed. We are fortunate to still have some World War II Veterans among us. Consequently, Larry Alexander’s talk on December 1st had the 105 members and guests spellbound as he related his relationship with Major Dick Winters of the 101st Airborne Division. Posterity benefits when a book about a soldier and his outfit is written with the close collaboration of the subject. As a bonus, Larry also told us some of the fascinating stories of the elite and relatively unknown Alamo Scouts of the Pacific theater. Thanks Larry!



Larry Alexander & Mike Cavanaugh

Our Spring Preservation raffle is ***Lions of the Round Top*** by Don Troiani. This 1995 print is sold out and is valued on the secondary market at over \$1000!! See Jack and Jeff at the Preservation table each month to purchase your tickets. A packet of ten tickets for only \$5.00 is a bargain and all proceeds benefit historic preservation!! This print and other

great prizes can be yours at the June meeting. Thanks to all of you who helped make the December Preservation raffle a success!



July 2, 1863 Col. Joshua Chamberlain led his men of the 20th Maine regiment in a gallant attack, to hold back the advance of the Alabamians, on Little Round Top at Gettysburg

We always strive to keep our organization growing, so help by spreading the word about our Round Table to friends and colleagues. You, our members, are our best resource.

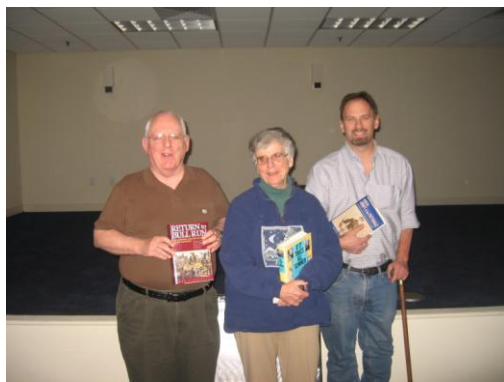
Please call your dinner reservation into our Brigade clerks as soon as possible. Your prompt action will make our lives and that of the Sheraton’s staff much easier. Thank you for your cooperation!

Join us on January 5th as we begin the New Year with one of our own members as our speaker. Those of you who accompanied Andy Johnson on our Hook Trip to Gettysburg for his Benning’s Brigade talk know that his research and presentation are without peer.

December Print Raffle Winners

Susan Kovacs

Book winners were Joe Riggs – “Return to Bull Run: The Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas”, Nancy Keigher – “If It Takes All Summer”, and Andy Johnson – “Inside the Army of the Potomac”. Winners not pictured include Jim Werkheiser winner of the grand prize – the Don Troiani print “Emmitsburg Road” and Samuel Parker – “The Iron Brigade: A Military History”. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone for supporting the preservation cause!



Photos by Ed Root

Newsletter via E-mail: Joe Riggs

The November and December issues of our newsletter were distributed to the membership and friends via e-mail and by the USPS. **Beginning with the January issue, those with e-mail addresses on file with the Round Table will receive their newsletter in the electronic form only.** Therefore, it is extremely important that we have your correct e-mail address on file with the round table. Please send your latest or preferred e-mail address to Joe Riggs jorjriggs@ptd.net and Jeff Gates

Book Raffle Winners

The book raffle winners for the December 2009 meeting were Bill Frankenfield, Bruce Rissmiller, Tom Petrilla, Louise Stocker, and Jim Jenks. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone for supporting the preservation cause!



jefgates@ptd.net as soon as possible. If you are not receiving the e version, please let us know. Remember, **Members without computers or email access will continue receiving their newsletters by regular mail.** We appreciate your comments, suggestions and help.

We hope that you continue in your support of the CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc.

Joe Riggs 610-797-5225 or jorjriggs@ptd.net

Gettysburg Site for a Slots Casino Sought: Ed Root

GETTYSBURG, Pa. - Could Gettysburg be the next location in Pennsylvania to be approved for slot machines? Local businessman Dave LeVan and a group of unidentified investors are seeking a Category III slots license. That category restricts the size of a facility to no more than 500 machines, and limits patronage to hotel guests or pass-holders.

The Gaming Control Board rejected a LeVan-backed project in 2006 because of its proximity to the Gettysburg battlefield. This time, investors are looking at the 307-room Eisenhower Inn & Conference Center in Cumberland Township as a possible location.

President Lincoln Signs the Emancipation Proclamation, 1863

Edwin Root



"If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong." This is what Abraham Lincoln stated in a letter to a constituent in 1864. He had always been against slavery but believed that his presidential powers as defined by the Constitution did not give him the authority to abolish it. In early 1862, Lincoln tried and failed to

develop an alternative approach: an effort to free the slaves of the Border States by buying out their masters. Stymied, Lincoln came up with a unique solution; if he could not eliminate slavery in the Union, he would do it in the Confederacy. He would abolish slavery in the Southern States based on his military powers as commander-in-chief of the Union's war effort. His decision was prompted by the realization that slave labor provided the foundation of the South's ability to wage war. On the battle front, slaves dug the trenches, built the battlements, cooked the meals and drove the wagons. On the home front, they tilled the fields, ginned the cotton, and performed many other duties that underpinned the South's economy. Slave labor freed the Confederate soldiers for combat. Without their slaves, the South's military power would be seriously diminished. Thus, his proclamation to end slavery in the South would be a military action intended to further the Union's war effort for, as Lincoln declared: "civilized belligerents do all in their power to help themselves or hurt the enemy."

He revealed his plan and a first draft of the proclamation to his Cabinet on July 22, 1862. He made it clear that he was not seeking their approval, as he had made up his mind to issue the proclamation. He did, however, ask for their comments. Secretary of State Seward questioned the timing of the announcement. The war was not going well for the North. A year earlier it had been soundly defeated at the First Battle of Bull Run and subsequent attempts to attack the South had sputtered. Seward felt that announcing the proclamation at this time would appear to be a desperate attempt of a broken government to rally opinion at home and abroad to its cause. Better to wait for a victory on the battlefield. Lincoln agreed. The Union's victory came in September when it repulsed Lee's invasion of the North at the Battle of Antietam. Lincoln issued a preliminary draft of the proclamation on September 22 that warned the Confederate States that if they did not return to the Union by January 1, 1863, he would issue a second proclamation declaring the slaves of those states "forever free". His warning was ignored. The general reaction in the North was supportive, but many had doubts

as to whether Lincoln would actually follow through with his plan. "...the act itself was only the simplest and briefest formality."

John Nicolay and John Hay were Lincoln's private secretaries and were there on that New Year's Day when he signed the Emancipation Proclamation: "Mr. Lincoln took the various manuscript notes and memoranda which his Cabinet advisers brought him on the 31st of December and during that afternoon and the following morning with his own hand carefully rewrote the entire body of the draft of the proclamation... It is a custom in the Executive Mansion to hold on New Year's Day an official and public reception, beginning at eleven o'clock in the morning, which keeps the President at his post in the Blue Room until two in the afternoon. The hour for this reception came before Mr. Lincoln had entirely finished revising the engrossed copy of the proclamation, and he was compelled to hurry away from his office to friendly handshaking and festal greeting with the rapidly arriving official and diplomatic guests. The rigid laws of etiquette held him to this duty for the space of three hours. Had actual necessity required it, he could of course have left such mere social occupation at any moment; but the President saw no occasion for precipitancy. On the other hand, he probably deemed it wise that the completion of this momentous executive act should be attended by every circumstance of deliberation.

Vast as were its consequences, the act itself was only the simplest and briefest formality. It could in no wise be made sensational or dramatic. Those characteristics attached, if at all, only to the long-past decisions and announcements of July 22 and September 22 of the previous year. Those dates had witnessed the mental conflict and the moral victory. No ceremony was made or attempted of this final official signing. The afternoon was well advanced when Mr. Lincoln went back from his New Year's greetings, with his right hand so fatigued that it was an effort to hold the pen. There was no special convocation of the Cabinet or of prominent officials. Those who were in the house came to the executive office merely from the personal impulse of curiosity joined to momentary convenience. His signature was attached to one of the greatest and most beneficent military decrees of history in the presence of less than a dozen persons; after which it was carried to the Department of State to be attested by the great seal and deposited among the archives of the Government."

References:

This eyewitness account appears in: Nicolay, John G. and John Hay, Abraham Lincoln, a History vol. 6 (1890); Goodwin, Doris Kearns, Team of Rivals (2005).

How To Cite This Article:

"President Lincoln Signs the Emancipation Proclamation, 1863" Eyewitness to History, www.eyewitnesstohistory.com (2006).

Gettysburg Times

Platts introduces law to include Railroad Station in park boundary

by Scot Andrew Pitzer

Published: Friday, December 18, 2009 6:38 AM EST

As expected, U.S. Rep. Todd Platts is proposing legislation to include the downtown Gettysburg Railroad Station within the boundaries of the 6,000-acre Gettysburg Battlefield. Platts introduced a bill this week, noting that the historic depot was the location where President Abraham Lincoln arrived and left town via train in 1863, when he gave the immortal Gettysburg Address.

The Park Service is negotiating with the Borough of Gettysburg to obtain the station — in a deal believed to be valued at \$722,000 — but the sale cannot move forward until the two-story depot is included in the park's boundary.

"The preservation of the Lincoln Train Station will help inspire future generations to better appreciate the significance of the Gettysburg Campaign, the Civil War and the bravery of the soldiers who, in President Lincoln's words, gave the last full measure of devotion," said Platts, whose Congressional district includes Gettysburg. Platts' bill is not unusual — the park's boundaries were expanded five years ago to include the David Wills House on Lincoln Square, when the three-story structure was sold by the borough to the park. The bill also includes language to include 45 acres of donated land along Plum Run in Cumberland Township within park boundaries.

According to GNMP spokeswoman Katie Lawhon, the land was donated to the park earlier this year, and the site abuts Park Service property. The Hills donated the land to the park's private fundraising and management partner, the Gettysburg Foundation, in April. Lawhon explained that the property is located at the southern end of the Gettysburg Battlefield, at the base of Big Round Top. "The Gettysburg Foundation plans to donate it to the National Park Service, once it's in the park boundary," said Lawhon.

Borough officials remain optimistic about the Train Station sale, even though negotiations have crawled along for nearly

two years. The borough and park are currently working out legal issues, such as obtaining clearance from the CSX Corporation. "We're still under a letter of intent with the Park Service," veteran Councilman Ted Streeter explained previously. "The Park Service is proceeding. We're both acting in good faith," added Streeter. Town leaders have also expressed confidence that the recent demotion of GNMP Supt. John Latschar to a desk job in Maryland will have little influence on the train station sale. "It's probably not going to have that big of an influence...we've checked, we've asked," said Councilman Bob Krummerich. "The leadership transition (at the park) is going smoothly, and it shouldn't really negatively impact the train station sale." Krummerich continued: "There are a couple of details being ironed out by lawyers, and the federal government is involved, so it will happen when it happens, and there's not a lot we can do to push it along." If the sale occurs, and officials are confident that it will, the station will be operated in accordance with the Gettysburg Interpretive Plan as a downtown visitor orientation center.

The station was donated by the Olinger Family to the borough in the late 1990s. Following the transfer, the borough launched a capital campaign to restore the rundown structure.

Federal and state grants were obtained as part of a \$2.5 million restoration project, and the station was re-dedicated in Nov. 2007.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Gettysburg Railroad Train Station served as a hospital during the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863, transporting wounded soldiers after the battle.

The station is the official home of the Pennsylvania Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and it has been operated for the past two years by the National Trust for Historic Gettysburg.

All our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2010!

DINNER MEETING JANUARY 5, 2010

Reservation Deadline Wednesday, December 30, 2009

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CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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