



THE DISPATCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GENERAL MEADE SOCIETY
OF PHILADELPHIA -- FALL 2020

“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 Volksfest Verein, 9130 Academy Road in Northeast Philadelphia. However, due to the current coronavirus event, until further notice meetings are being held online with Zoom. To be invited to the meetings, send an email to Dr. Andy Waskie at: awaski01@gmail.com.

To Contact the Meade Society:

See our website: generalmeadesociety.org
or email to: meade@generalmeadesociety.org

“ ... WE MUST EXPECT CONSIDERABLE SICKNESS.”

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, JULY 3, 1864.

We are not doing much at present; the great heat and the dust, together with the exhausted condition of the men, imposed a quiet on us which the enemy does not seem disposed to disturb.

To-day is the anniversary of the last day's fight at Gettysburg. As I reflect on that eventful period, and all that has elapsed since, I have reason to be satisfied with my course, and cause to be most thankful. The longer this war continues the more will Gettysburg and its results be appreciated. Colonel de Chenal, who is still with me, says he studied the battle, with maps at Pau, but had no idea that on its anniversary he should be the guest of the victorious commander. He says in Europe it was looked on as a great battle.

It is said Washington is very unhealthy, and that many of our wounded are dying there. It is strange; the health of the army never was better — we have no sickness at all. But if we are kept here, I presume, as the summer advances, we must expect considerable sickness.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, JULY 7, 1864.

I am glad to hear the good news about Baldy, as I am very much attached to the old brute.

... Excerpt from a letter to his wife, from *The Life and Letters of George Gordon Meade*, vol. II, p. 210.

In 1864 General Meade wrote about the specter of sickness and his Army of the Potomac. This past year the Meade Society, as a microcosm of the World, had to deal with the menace of the coronavirus pandemic. Several of our events were cancelled and/or postponed. We hope to continue them in the coming year, possibly in restrained or modified circumstances. But we are still moving along. While our customary Summer issue of *The Dispatch* did not appear, the Fall Issue wants to alert our devoted membership of these events and that we are now mounted and in our saddles!
— Ken Garson, *Dispatch* editor

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

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| Bill Linhart | Ed Zongolowicz |

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday – Monday, October 10 – 12th General Meade Society Fall Excursion – Alexandria, Fairfax County, Virginia, Wash- ington DC & the New U.S. Army Museum

The annual Fall Excursion has been **postponed** until **next fall of 2021** or to a date to be determined. Treasurer Jerry McCormick issued an email to this effect. [See this link to his email for further information.](#)

Tuesday, November 10 at 11am US Marine Corps Birthday Observance

At the grave of General Jacob Zeilin, 7th Commandant of the Marine Corps. Call [215.228.8200](tel:215.228.8200) for details. www.thelaurelhillemetery.org

Saturday, November 21 at 10:30 am Remembrance Day in Gettysburg

THE CUSTOMARY EVENT AT GETTYSBURG HAS BEEN CANCELLED. However, Andy Waskie intends to have a lesser memorial at the General Meade Equestrian Monument. Email him for further details. Dr. Andy Waskie at: awaski01@gmail.com

Thursday, December 31 at Noon Annual General Meade Birthday Celebration

Will mark the annual anniversary of the birth of General George G. Meade, heroic commander of the victorious Union army at the Battle of Gettysburg. Arrive at 11:30am. The General Meade Society of Philadelphia will celebrate his birthday at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Ave. This will mark the **205th** anniversary of the birth of General George Gordon Meade (1815-1872); it was also the **30th** anniversary of the ceremony and the **24th** anniversary of the founding of the **General Meade Society of Philadelphia**. A champagne toast and reception will follow the program. For directions, call Laurel Hill Cemetery: [215-228-8200](tel:215-228-8200)



Sunday, January 17, 2021 General Meade Society Champagne Brunch & Awards Ceremony (Backup date: Jan. 24 2021)

Join the Gen. Meade Society of Philadelphia for its annual DeLuxe Champagne Brunch & Awards Ceremony, presenting the Society 'Award of Merit' Cannstatter Volksfest Verein 9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114
To reserve: [215-848-7753](tel:215-848-7753) or gedwinmc@msn.com



Friday, February 12, 2021 Annual Lincoln Birthday Celebration Parade and Ceremonies

Sponsored by the Union League of Philadelphia. Civil War military units, civilians, and heritage groups are welcome and encouraged to march in the parade through Philadelphia to Independence Hall to honor President Lincoln on his birthday. Participants will gather at the Union League, 140 S. Broad St. by 10am.

Complimentary parking is available at **Laz Garage** on the N.W. corner of 15th & Sansom St. **only**. There are no reimbursements for those who park elsewhere. Arrive between 9:00am – 10:00am and obtain a parking pass from a guard at the Sansom St. Entrance, opposite the Union League garage. Proceed to Laz garage at **114 S 15th St** to park. Return to the Union League. Color Guards, Firing Party, music, and wreaths are appreciated. There will be a complimentary lunch for the participants at 12 noon. After the parade ALL are invited to return to the Union League via coach for refreshments and entertainment in the historic League House. To register: Contact: Dr. Andy Waskie. 215-423-3930 or awaski01@gmail.com



Upcoming Events cont'd on page 3 >>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 11am
Annual Major Octavius V. Catto Honor
Ceremony**

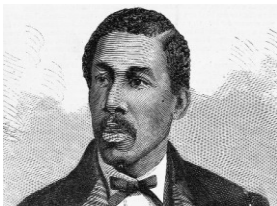
Honor ceremony; wreath laying; military salute at the Catto Monument at the South Front of City Hall at 11:00am. Honoring the great African-American equal rights and military leader. Wreath-Laying ceremony. All military units, period civilians, veterans and heritage groups are encouraged to participate. Colors, wreaths and music encouraged.



**Following the City Hall Ceremony: PA
National Guard Award Luncheon &
Medal Ceremony to follow at 12:30 pm
in the Union League for the ‘Major Catto
Medal’ Award Ceremony Luncheon**

Contact: Mary O’Brien at the Union League to reserve lunch: obrienm@unionleague.org
Information: Dr. Andy Waskie at: awaski01@gmail.com

The Major Octavius V. Catto Honor Ceremony will begin at 11am, with lunch to follow. We will meet at the new OV Catto Monument at the S.W. corner of City Hall at 11:00am for the wreath laying and honor volleys and taps. Honoring the great black equal rights and military leader with a wreath-laying ceremony. All military units, period civilians, veterans and heritage groups are encouraged to participate. Colors, wreaths and music encouraged. Then come back to the Union League for a delicious lunch starting at 12:30pm. There will be a signature/cash bar available. Price: \$35 inclusive.



**Sunday, April 11, 2021
21st Annual Meade Society Symposium:
Bala Cynwyd, PA 12 noon**

Annual **Meade Society History Symposium** at the Conservatory at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bala Cynwyd, PA
Speakers on the topic –
The War with Mexico; Training Ground of the Civil War
Featuring noted historians and speakers, and authors on the life and career of the Victor of Gettysburg, as well as books, prints and raffles. 12 noon – 5pm
Conservatory at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bala Cynwyd, PA. <http://westlaurelhill.com/>
Please register to attend - Cost: \$40 per person including registration; luncheon & refreshments. Contact: Jerry McCormick: 215-848-7753 Email: gedwinmc@msn.com

**PCNTV Provides
The Gettysburg Collection Online**

PCN Hosts the [Gettysburg Collection](https://pcntv.com/gettysburg-collection-landing/) [<https://pcntv.com/gettysburg-collection-landing/>]

For those who aren’t familiar with PCN’s provision of information and education about the state, PCNTV offers a trove of information about the state and its workings, social, cs and policy, and history and culture and sports. It is a fee-based service (\$34.99 a year, non-recurring), which is a wonderful price for the quality one sees.

You can sample a free session to see if you’re interested in the battle walks and battle talks that are offered. You might even see a certain Union General named Meade being interviewed.

Of particular interest is the Gettysburg Collection. One can commemorate the battle on July 1st through the 3rd even when there is a plague afoot!

[N.B. The GMS receives no financial reward from this promotion.]

**THE GENERAL MEADE SOCIETY
MOURNS THE PASSING OF
FAITH GOTTMAN WOLFORD**

Faith Gottman Wolford died July 31st after a courageous fight against cancer. She is survived by her loving husband of 36 years, David E. Wolford, her sister, Charlene Gottman, and two nieces and a nephew.

Faith and Dave were loyal supporters of the General Meade Society for many years. She and her husband traveled with us on many Spring and Fall trips, as well as attending many of our functions. The Meade Society sends our condolences to her husband and surviving family.



Faith Wolford was a local girl, a graduate of Roxborough High School. She attained undergraduate and graduate degrees, while working, from Temple University. Faith subsequently applied her passion for science and organizational ability with the American Red Cross in Philadelphia as supervisor of their lab. There she became nationally recognized as one of the primary resources for identifying, matching, and obtaining rare blood types in the United States. She retired from Rohm and Haas in 2007.

She was an avid bicyclist, who covered hundreds of miles on the back roads and bike paths of Southeastern Pennsylvania and South Jersey. For many years, Faith participated in the MS City to Shore Bike Ride where she was able to use biking as a way to help others.

Faith enjoyed friends, travel, photography, live music, good books, biking, and her cats. She also volunteered with the Reading Buddies program where she encouraged students to enjoy reading. In addition to the General Meade Society, Faith was a faithful supporter of the arts and Philadelphia History, subscribing to the Walnut Street Theater, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

An Elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, she chaired the education committee where she hosted holiday festivals for children in the community. Her entire obituary and where donations in her honor may be made can be found at this link:

[<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/inquirer/obituary.aspx?n=faithe-wolford-gottman&pid=196647679>]

— Ken Garson

This Dispatch's book review examines Thomas R. Flagel's *War, Memory, and the 1913 Gettysburg Reunion*. (Kent, Ohio: The Kent State University Press, 2019. 170 p. Includes photographs, bibliographical references and index.)

Flagel is a college professor who has worked with the Civil War Trust and the National Park Service. He cites several other books covering the 1913 reunion's lack of reconciliation—and presence of sectionalism. His book focuses on four veterans, two each from the Union and the Confederacy and their experience after the war and their feelings about their return to the place.

The author sets the stage with the socio-political drama and haggling over finances for the 50th anniversary of the battle, planning that took longer than the entire Civil War. One curmudgeon wrote that “a man can't throw a stone into any crowd without hitting a hero.” The pensions and entitlements of the Civil War veterans were too egregious, one argued, and that the “old soldiers demanded too much.”

In a period when the average life-span of a man was fifty-one and the average age of the veterans seventy-two, speed was essential. (Indeed, one of the four covered in Flagel's book died on the way home after the reunion.) An interesting note: *fifteen percent* of people died at the turn of the century of suicide.) There were issues of the display of the Stars and Bars and monuments and wearing of uniforms.

The book has many photos of the Reunion, most that this reviewer has not seen. (One photo shows a bearded vet carrying his folding cot “either in search of a napping spot or better roommates.”)

He devotes chapters to arriving in Gettysburg, the billeting and provision of food and water, activities for the veterans, and the feats of engineering required to change a small town into one that could accommodate many thousands.

And while there was much squabbling over the price tag of the Reunion of 1913, the political nabobs managed to spend hours in the blazing, debilitating sun delivering speeches of Patriotism and Glory and “willingness of US citizens to fight for territorial expansion of the United States”, while, the author concludes, the veterans wanted to mingle and talk and reminisce, and see and to actually weep—which many did—where they lost their arms or legs or their best friends.

It was cynically noted that future reunions might benefit tourism, while some Southern editors found celebrations of the defeat to the Confederacy repugnant. “Gettysburg was a Fourth of July racket. And what a racket it was!”

Flagel's book is highly recommended reading for those interested in the Civil War and its remembrance; it is most readable, interesting and brief.

— Ken Garson

Annual Memorial Day 2020 Observed at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery

On **Sunday May 24th**, Dr. Andy Waskie put together and ran another successful wreath-laying ceremony for this year's abbreviated observation of the Memorial Day Ceremony at Laurel Hill. It was well represented by MOLLUS PA, MOLLUS CiC, and DOLLUS, given that our attendance was restricted to ten to conform to the city's and cemetery's pandemic guidelines.

Photos as a slideshow from the day can be viewed on the **Meade Society website**:
<https://generalmeadesociety.org/memorial-day-observed-at-historic-laurel-hill-cemetery-2/>

There's also this from **Laurel Hill Cemetery**:

“We were unable to hold our annual **Volunteer Flag Placement Day** for veteran graves this year, so we want to recognize and send our deepest thanks to **Board Member and Tour Guide Andy Waskie** and his wife **Carol Neumann**; **Tour Guide Russ Dodge** and his wife **Sue Dodge**; **Mike Peter** and his son-in-law. They practiced social distancing with one another while placing flags on approximately 500 veteran graves in anticipation of Memorial Day. Thank you for helping carry on the tradition of decorating veteran graves at Laurel Hill Cemetery!

This year, Memorial Day celebrations across the country were disrupted by COVID-19, including ours. The Friends wanted to take an extra step in honoring our country's heroes at Laurel Hill and West Laurel Hill Cemeteries.

The **Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery** created the “**Veterans' Flag Holders Fund**” about ten years ago to honor the veterans who eternally rest in Laurel Hill Cemetery. For each donation, we plant an aluminum flag holder with a flag either at the grave of the donor's choosing or one we choose. We have placed these flag holders on hundreds of graves, but there are hundreds more deserving souls. From May 15-31, The Friends ran a campaign to match each public donation made for a flag holder and expand the Fund to include veterans at West Laurel Hill.

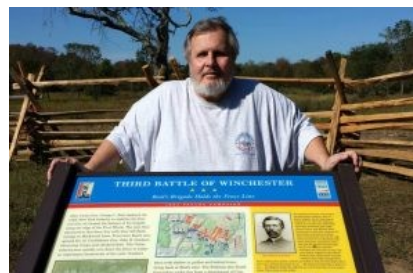
We are overwhelmed by the success of these efforts! **We raised \$2,200 through 52 donations. With the 1:1 match, 152 veterans will receive brand new flag holders in the coming months.** This hugely exceeded our original goal of honoring 30 veterans and we are so grateful for the outpouring of support for our cemeteries' veterans

This fund will be around for as long as it takes us to put a flag holder on every known veteran's grave, so even though this matching campaign is over, consider donating to the **Veterans' Flag Holders Fund** and help us continue our legacy of honoring those who have served our country.” **Laurel Hill Cemetery Facebook Video**: <https://www.facebook.com/laurelhillcemetery/videos/702738470301936>

The Meade Society of Philadelphia Remembers Ted Alexander

The **General Meade Society** pays our tribute to a loyal supporter, **Ted Alexander**. The Society will miss his inspiring and educational battlefield knowledge and offers our condolences to his family; the Civil War community will feel his loss. The following is a notice from **Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours**:

Our Tribute to Ted Alexander



We are saddened to learn that our good friend, colleague, mentor and past program coordinator for Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours, Ted Alexander, passed away last night. Ted had suffered a number of health issues over the years, but was a champion for Civil War history and preservation throughout his life. At the Chambersburg Chamber, we had the opportunity to work with Ted for more than 30 years. With his input and passion, the programs raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to preserve our nation's sacred history. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time – he will be missed.

On behalf of Chambersburg Civil War Seminars and the Chambersburg Chamber, we will be sending a Memory Book to Ted's family as a tribute to his legacy in the Civil War community. We invite you to please email us any contributions **you would like included such as a nice message regarding a fond memory with him. Submissions may be sent to Lark at lkennedy@chambersburg.org.**

G.A.R. MUSEUM IS LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME

The Philadelphia Camp Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War received its charter in 1926. This camp became the managers of the historic collection of Civil War relics, books, photographs, and memorabilia of Post 2 of the Grand Army of the Republic. This collection was originally housed in the Memorial Hall once located near 12th and Spring Garden Streets in Philadelphia.

Memorial Hall was sold and torn down in the late 1950's. Members of the corporation then purchased 4278 Griscom Street. The relics and memorabilia remaining from the original Post 2 G.A.R. collection form the basis of the collection of the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum.



Our building, the Ruan House, was built in 1796 by Dr. John Ruan and is on both the Philadelphia and National Registers of Historic Places. In 1985, through the efforts of Margaret and Bud Atkinson, the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum, a 501(c)(3) corporation was created. The museum is currently managed by a seven-member Board of Directors, all volunteers.

The museum contains an extensive library and archive that is available to the public for genealogical and historical research. The museum also has a singular collection of historic Civil War relics, artifacts, photographs and memorabilia. We are the only museum in the Philadelphia area solely dedicated to the history of the Civil War.

A visual tour of the Museum can be seen on our website: <https://garmuslib.org/>

The museum has an entire room dedicated to Abraham Lincoln that includes a bloodstained piece of pillowcase from the bed in the Petersen House on which Lincoln took his last breath. The Museum also possesses handcuffs that were found in the trunk owned by John Wilkes Booth, who was planning to use them to kidnap President Lincoln in March 1865.

In the room dedicated to General George G. Meade can be found Old Baldy, General Meade's war horse, along with numerous other memorabilia of this important general.



The Board of Directors are looking for a new home for the Museum. We have outgrown our buildings and the neighborhood. We have looked at several locations that include areas just outside of Philadelphia. Our 1926 Charter states that we must remain in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

We are seeking any suggestions or help in this endeavor. Please contact Joe Perry, President and Librarian at garmuslib1866@gmail.com.



TIDBITS FROM THE MEADE SOCIETY TREASURER

Just wanted to convey a hearty **THANK YOU** for your support of the General Meade Society by sending in your dues payments.

Membership Coordinator Carol Ingald has informed us that we now have **one hundred and fifty-one members** in good standing, the highest it's been in several years.

I would also like to thank our generous donors who have become LIFETIME MEMBERS. We recently sent them certificates of appreciation for their generosity:

- Raymond Chowkwanyun
- Philip Flynn
- Raymond Haupt
- Charles V. Meade
- Andy Waskie & Carol Neumann

Many of you have continued to enclose additional donations along with your dues payments. Not only do these keep us afloat but have allowed us to contribute to the following preservation efforts this year, and in past years' efforts of preservation and education:

- **\$350.00** table sponsorship for the **Octavius V. Catto** annual luncheon & award ceremony at the **Union League of Phila.**
- **\$500.00** donation in memory of **Rev. Richard O. Partington** to the **G.A.R. Museum & Library**
- **\$500.00** donation to the **Friends of Laurel Hill West Laurel Hill** for their **Ridge Avenue Restoration Project**
- **\$250.00** donation to the **Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours** in memory of **Ted Alexander**.

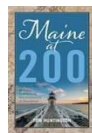
We also continue to support the **General George G. Meade School** through our **Educational Foundation Fund** and various preservation endeavors from our **Silent Auction Fund**.

I can report to you today that thanks to YOUR SUPPORT, the **General Meade Society of Philadelphia, Inc.** is on sound financial ground. We truly value your continued support to help us with our preservation and education efforts. Stay safe !

— **Jerry McCormick**, Treasurer

NEW FROM LOCAL AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN TOM HUNTINGTON

After books about Civil War history such as *Maine Roads to Gettysburg*, *Searching for George Gordon Meade: The Forgotten Victor of Gettysburg*, as well as *Guide to Gettysburg Battlefield Monuments*, *Pennsylvania Civil War Trails*, and *Ben Franklin's Philadelphia*, Tom Huntington has written a book and blogs about his home state, Maine. You can find more about this at his website: maineat200.com



In addition, **HistoryNet** posted Tom's article from *American History* about Nelson Riddle and Frank Sinatra, "[The Riddle of Sinatra](https://www.historynet.com/the-riddle-of-sinatra)" at:

[<https://www.historynet.com/the-riddle-of-sinatra.htm>]

THE MEADE SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

The **Meade Society** is seeking volunteers looking for an opportunity to develop web publishing skills. We are reaching out for those who wish to help!

The General Meade Society is in need of a Website Manager & Newsletter editor!!!

Current editor and web manager Ken Garson and wife Jeanette and cat are retiring to Islandia at the end of this year. He will no longer be available to administer to the website, which is currently running on WordPress and mounted on a server that is managed by a cooperative. (So no backend IT server knowledge is necessary.) The current web manager is willing to assist the new manager in learning the WordPress software; the Society is willing to add any auxiliary training as needed.

It is a wonderful opportunity to gain blogging/ website expertise while aiding the society in its endeavors. The *Dispatch* is produced using MS Word, but any desktop publisher can do future issues. The current editor can forward any and all website-related images and photos needed.

This opportunity needs to be addressed immediately, as of January 2021 the current editor and web manager will no longer be available for the tasks at hand. Email him for more details at Ken Garson: kengarson@gmail.com



2021
GENERAL GEORGE MEADE SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Kindly remit your 2021 dues payment on or before January 31, 2021.

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 1st to December 31st, 2021.

- _____ **\$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 Meade School, 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!