



# THE DISPATCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GENERAL MEADE SOCIETY  
OF PHILADELPHIA – SPRING 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 Volksfest 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

*Of interest in this issue:*

- General Meade’s Birthday 2020 Recap
- 25<sup>th</sup> Year of the Meade Society
- Annual Trip Update
- Treasurer’s Report
- Meade Anniversary Dinner on November 13, 2021. Saturday night event.

Dear Members, Friends & Colleagues of the General Meade Society,

## WELCOME BACK!

I thank you for staying interested and committed to the mission and events of the Society through the year of the pandemic. Now that the time of trial is passing, we can look forward to returning to our normal life once again, with safety, of course. We hope that you will support our upcoming events and traditions, such as our Memorial Day Services and events; our educational opportunities; our tours and trip and our long-delayed Annual Society Dinner and Awards at our home at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein on Saturday, November 13, 2021, near Veterans Day.

Stay safe, secure, obtain the vaccine ASAP, and stay devoted to our “Humble Hero” of Gettysburg and his veterans.

In Loyalty,  
Andy Waskie, General Meade Society, President

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The General Meade Society would like to welcome the following new members who joined the Society during the period September 2020 through March 2021:

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Rebecca Alcantara   | Jacksonville, Florida     |
| Douglas DiToro      | Havertown, Pennsylvania   |
| William Graver      | Arlington, Virginia       |
| Clay Thomas Hoffman | San Diego, California     |
| Thomas Innes        | Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania |
| Gregory Lawton      | Perkasie, Pennsylvania    |
| Randy Rosenberg, MD | Rydal, Pennsylvania       |

**NOTE: BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM**  
During the current COVID-19 the restrictions, Meade Society Board Meetings will be held virtually via Zoom.

**Board of Directors - Officers**

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

**Board Members**

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

## 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEADE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT LAUREL HILL CEMETERY



The customary **Annual Celebration** of the **General Meade Society** of the great General's birthday at **Laurel Hill Cemetery** took place on **December 31, 2020**, with limited participation and scaled down from past practice due to COVID-19.



After the speechifying there were wreath laying and honor volleys, champagne toasts to the General for his accomplishments as a Philadelphia citizen, a military hero of battles to uphold the Union and his feats of engineering surveying the Great Lakes and building lighthouses.



This marked 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**.



The socially distanced celebration was capped off by a benediction delivered by Legion Post 405 Chaplain Albert El and the traditional champagne toast. 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/annual-meade-birth-day-celebration-2020/)**:  
<https://generalmeadesociety.org/annual-meade-birth-day-celebration-2020/>

## **GENERAL MEADE SOCIETY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS**

by Jerry McCormick

2021 will mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the General Meade Society. From a fledgling gathering at Laurel Hill Cemetery on December 31st, 1996, organized and headed by Dr. Anthony Waskie, the Meade Society has grown to include over 150 supporters. It has also become a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational/charitable organization with an active board of directors, and continues to hold annual endeavors such as the Brunch & Awards Ceremony, Symposium, Spring & Fall bus trips, Memorial Day and December 31st (General Meade's birthday) ceremonies at Laurel Hill Cemetery, General Meade Night at the Phillies, and the picnic in Fairmount Park at the Meade statue. The Meade Society is also a sponsor of Lincoln Day at the Union League and the O.V. Catto ceremony and luncheon in February, placement of flags at Laurel Hill in May, and the Marine Corps anniversary ceremony there in November, along with the annual Remembrance Day ceremonies and wreath laying in Gettysburg.

I joined the Society in December 1999 and went to the Meade Birthday event on the 31st at Laurel Hill Cemetery, very close to where I live. There were lots of people there and plenty of food and drink. I saw Mike Wunsch for the first time and he told me it was all free, but donations were encouraged. As I was getting out my wallet, someone handed me a beer and a glass of champagne. The rest is history. I attended the January monthly board meeting at Holy Family College and a fabulous brunch at the 94th Aero Squadron.

I continued my involvement with the Society, and eventually succeeded Fran Ward as its treasurer. Over the past 20 years, it has been a privilege for me to have worked with a truly great bunch of people who honor the "Victor of Gettysburg", especially those who I go back with from the beginning as executive officers: Jack Walton (former VP and his successor, Mike Peter), Mike Wunsch, Corresponding Secretary, the late Fran Ward, Treasurer, and, of course, board member, the late Billy Boehmer - the "Conscience of the Meade Society."

But lastly, and certainly not in the least is Andy Waskie, President. Andy has opened many doors for me during the 20 years I have known him, visiting many places and meeting many famous people who are involved in the Civil War. His leadership has brought the Society to where it is today, and it continues to thrive as an important organization in the Civil War community.

Sometime later this year, (providing things return to normal), the General Meade Society is planning a 25th Anniversary dinner to commemorate this milestone. We hope many of you will plan to attend. Watch for additional info in future editions of The Dispatch and on the GMS website.

Many thanks for your support over the 25 years.

### **UPCOMING**

### **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**

Includes deluxe motor coach with our new carrier, Perkiomen Tours; driver tip; deluxe hotel (Court-yard/Dulles, Herndon, VA); river cruise to Alexandria, VA; guided tour of the new U.S. Army Museum; wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery; Saturday AND Sunday dinners and Sunday lunch. Price: TBD.

Contact Jerry McCormick at (215) 848-7753 or [gedwinmc@msn.com](mailto:gedwinmc@msn.com) for reservations and information. A \$50.00 per person deposit is required for all reservations. \*\*\*

\*\*\* For all those who signed up for the 2020 trip and asked me to hold your deposits, you need not reply. If you were REFUNDED your deposit, please let me know if you still intend to go on this year's trip.

THANKS! Jerry

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

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 13, 2021. Come and celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary General Meade Society dinner to be held at Cannstatter Volksfest Verein, 9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia PA 19114. Details to follow. For reservations, contact Jerry McCormick, [gedwinmc@msn.com](mailto:gedwinmc@msn.com)

## On the Web

Living history General Meade presentation by Andy Waskie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTGFIEiQ48cE>

## Upcoming Events

Due to the COVID-19 virus, many 2020 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>

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

Gravesite placement of veterans' flags at Laurel Hill Cemetery

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

Annual Memorial Day Observed at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery

### **May 31, 2021 Christ Church**

Special Memorial Day Observance at Christ Church Burial Ground

### **October 2, 2021**

Octavius V. Catto Ceremony at Philadelphia City Hall & the Union League

**October 9, 10, 11 2021 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, with Awards and a Guest Speaker. Please use the above link for more information and updates when they become available.

### **November 20, 2021**

Remembrance Day in Gettysburg

### **December 31, 2021**

Annual George Meade Birthday Celebration

## Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that during the first quarter of 2021, dues and donation payments to the General Meade Society have totaled almost \$3,500. Included in the payments are two additional LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS from board member Bill Linhart and Rebecca Alcantara. And, we received another generous donation from board member Bernie and Margie Bujak. Donations also continue to come in support of our special funds, the General Meade Society Foundation Fund and the William H. Boehmer Preservation Fund. On behalf of Carol Ingald, our Membership Chair, and Mike Wunsch, our Corresponding Secretary, we offer sincere thanks for your continued financial support, especially during trying times for all.

Your generosity and support allows us to ensure that the mission of the General Meade Society will continue our efforts of historic preservation and education. THANK YOU!

Jerry McCormick, Treasurer

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## Past Events

(and web links for more information)

### **February 22, 2020**

Octavius V. Catto Ceremony

<https://generalmeadesociety.org/octavius-v-catto-ceremony-2020>

### **May 24, 2020**

Memorial Day at Laurel Hill Cemetery

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

### **November 10, 2020**

Annual Marine Corps Anniversary Observance

<https://generalmeadesociety.org/us-marine-corps-birthday-observance>

### **November 21, 2020**

Gettysburg Remembrance Day 2020

<https://generalmeadesociety.org/remembrance-day-at-gettysburg-2020/>

### **December 31, 2020**

Annual Meade Birthday celebration at Laurel Hill Cemetery

<https://generalmeadesociety.org/annual-meade-birthday-celebration-2020/>

## Future 2021 Events

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

Meet at the gatehouse of Laurel Hill Cemetery, 10:00 AM. The group assembled will place U.S. flags on the graves of veterans of all wars. As time and manpower permit, the cemeteries to be covered include Laurel Hill, Mt. Peace and St. James the Less. Refreshments and lunch provided. All welcome! 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.thelaurelhillemetery.org>

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### **CHRIST CHURCH MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE MAY 31, 2021**

Special Memorial Day Observance on Monday, May 31, 2021 at 1PM, the National Holiday at Christ Church Burial Ground, 5th & Arch St. The final resting place of five (5) Signers of the Declaration of Independence, including Benjamin Franklin and many military veterans of all eras! The Benjamin Franklin American Legion Post #405 of the Union League will place a wreath representing the American Legion Post, commemorating the services of all veterans at the grave of Major Charles I. Maceuen, Major, 198<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers (6<sup>th</sup> Union League Regiment), KIA at the Battle of Lewis Farm, Va., March 29, 1865. Representing all veterans! ALL are welcome!

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### **PHILLIES BASEBALL 2021**

Due to the cancelled 2020 baseball game, our deposit is still good and in a holding pattern. For 2021, the Phillies have an 8,800 limited capacity for the first 19 games of 2021. When it opens up we'll announce the game and provide more information.

Thanks for your patience. Tom Kearney

### **MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE MAY 30, 2021**

Recreating the Original G.A.R. Decoration Day Service of 1868: The traditional Decoration Day service of the Grand Army Meade Post #1 will be recreated at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, on Sunday, May 30 (original date of Decoration Day), 2021 at noon.

Laurel Hill is the site of the first Memorial Day Observance in Philadelphia on this date in 1868. Special bronze veterans' markers will be dedicated at the graves of veterans:

\* *Dr. George Huhn*, M.D., U.S. Army Surgeon at Camp William Penn, and

\* *Theodore DeKlyne*, U.S. Navy Assistant Engineer on USS Mystic.

Speakers, ceremonies, and pageant will highlight this special ceremony. Afterwards the entourage will gather at the grave of General Meade, hero of Gettysburg, to perform the traditional service to honor all veterans who fell defending the Nation. Wreath-laying, speeches, music, and honor guards will enhance the ceremony. Historical groups, veterans, and citizens are urged to participate. Wreaths, military contingents, color guards, music and period civilians are encouraged to participate. Refreshments served after the ceremony. Tours of the historic cemetery are available.

Co-sponsored by the General Meade Society of Philadelphia; Friends of Laurel Hill; American Legion Post #405; MOLLUS, Union League; Sons of Union Veterans; Patriotic Order Sons of America. For information, call: (215) 228-8200

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### **US 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.thelaurelhillemetery.org>

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

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### **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 am. Contact Jerry McCormick at (215) 848-7753 or [eedwinmc@msn.com](mailto:eedwinmc@msn.com) for info.

**UPCOMING (RESCHEDULED)  
OCTAVIUS V. CATTO CEREMONY  
AT PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL &  
THE UNION LEAGUE**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 2, 2021**

There will be a ceremony to honor the contributions of the Civil War leader with a wreath laying and military salute at the **Catto Monument** on the **South Front of City Hall** at 11:00 A.M. to honor the great Black equal rights and military leader. The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1871 assassination occurred during the election riots in the PA. All military units, period civilians, veterans and heritage groups are encouraged to participate. Colors, wreaths and music are encouraged.



Following the City Hall Ceremony: **The PA National Guard Award Luncheon & Medal Ceremony** to follow at **12:30 PM** in the **Union League** for the **'Major Catto Medal' Award Ceremony**.

Contact: **Mary O'Brien** at the **Union League**  
to reserve lunch:  
[obrienm@unionleague.org](mailto:obrienm@unionleague.org)

Information: **Dr. Andy Waskie** (215) 423-3930  
or [awaski01@gmail.com](mailto:awaski01@gmail.com)

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



**GAR MUSEUM**

The **Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Library** needs to move as its current location at 4278 Griscom Street is old and in need of very extensive and expensive repairs and in addition it needs additional space for its expanded collections, and educational enterprise.

Newly-elected President **Joe Perry** is mounting a major fundraising campaign to relocate its Civil War collections. The Board of the Museum is searching for a new location, partnerships, and financial opportunities to achieve their goal of honoring, preserving and promoting the heritage of those who served the Union.

If you are interested in assisting, please see the GAR website: <https://garmuslib.org> or call the Museum at (215) 289-6484.

**GMS AND GAR DONATION**

The GMS and the GAR has received a donation of numerous historical documents from Janet Rubien. The many items from the Meade family and especially G.G. Meade (grandson) and included photos, framed prints, posters, family histories and documents, books and other items from the civil war period. The GAR Board of Directors and Joe Perry thank Janet for the donation.

**CIVIL WAR PUZZLE ANSWER**



This photo from the film **The Red Badge of Courage** shows war hero **Audie Murphy** with **BILL MAULDIN** on his left. The first winning answer was from **Guillermo Bosch**. Congratulations and enjoy the Andy Waskie free beer. One note on the contest is that it did not limit the size of the beer. Enjoy it!  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill\\_Mauldin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Mauldin)



**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 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 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!**