

June 2018



Battlelines

Vermont Legislature backs GBPA Letterman preservation drive

The Vermont House of Representatives and Senate in May formally adopted a resolution (J.R.S. 59) supporting the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association's effort to preserve what remains of the Camp Letterman hospital site.

"We are thrilled, that a state government is backing a large part of our campaign to preserve a very important portion of the remaining undeveloped ground that was vital to the Battle of Gettysburg and the unprecedented effort to treat the thousands of wounded and dying soldiers after the battle," said GBPA President Barb Mowery.

After the battle, thousands of wounded Confederate and Union troops were gathered from where they were being treated in homes, barns, churches and other buildings throughout the Gettysburg area into one massive tent hospital named for Dr. Jonathan Letterman, the medical Director of the Army of the Potomac.



The responsibility for establishing this first hospital to treat Union and Confederate casualties equally with the best resources available was in the hands of Dr. Henry Janes, a Waterbury, Vermont, physician and U.S. Army surgeon.

Wounded troops treated at the hospital included those of the Second Vermont Brigade, which had played a role in the desperate clash on the third day of the battle in repelling Pickett's Charge.

Mowery said the GBPA is seeking to preserve 17 acres of Camp Letterman that are part of a planned 191-acre townhouse development by S &

A Homes of State College, Pennsylvania.

"We are not trying to stop the entire project, just preserve the 17 acres that were part of Camp Letterman," said Mowery. "S & A has been kind enough to meet with us on a few occasions, but there's been no assurance that the Letterman ground won't be plowed up and paved for roads and residences."

The resolution from the Vermont Senate and House of Representatives, which received final adoption on May 11, states that "the General Assembly supports the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association's effort to preserve the Camp Letterman hospital site and requests that S & A Homes preserve these 17 acres of historic ground."

The Vermont Senate will send a copy of the resolution to S & A headquarters.

"This action by Vermont was spurred by Vermont Historian, Howard Coffin, who went above and beyond in working to get this legislation passed," said Mowery. Others who are very concerned about saving this hallowed ground and have been writing letters to S & A Homes include people from 35 states, 3 foreign countries, preservation organizations, individual living historians and authors, civil war round tables, civil war organizations and other living history groups.

New benefits for GBPA Members – Page 7

Volunteers Make the Difference at Historic Daniel Lady Farm!

Despite the refusal of winter to release the region from its icy grasp, volunteers readied the Historic Daniel Lady Farm for the 2018 season now upon us.

On a chilly March weekend, volunteers cleared small trees and brush to provide another camp site for the increasing number of Scout troops who visit the Farm and other Gettysburg sites to be immersed in American history.

This ninth site is adjacent to where the 2nd Maryland Light Artillery (Confederate) moved for better protection after being pounded on Brenner's Ridge by Union cannon firing in defense of Culp's Hill.

The farm is now open to Scout camping year-round and is growing in popularity to the point of being totally booked up on several weekends this summer and early fall.

Scout usage of the camping facilities at the Historic Daniel Lady Farm is way up this year. On several weekends, all camp sites are booked solid. Beginning this past winter, the Farm began hosting Scout camping year-round.



**There's even more
Invaluable volunteers on
page 3**

Lauren Jones and her daughter Rowan enjoy the serenity a May day on the Farm.



Painting Patriots

In April, Cub Scout Pack 998 of Leesburg, Virginia, traveled all the way to the Farm just for the day to help out with improvements.

Under the watchful eyes of volunteers Richard and Rick Beidel, the scouts were mustered with paint and brushes to coat signposts and picnic tables for the campsites. We hope they'll return in the future for their own encampment and develop life-long links to the legacy of Gettysburg.



Meanwhile, that same day ... On the other side of the Lady house, Darcie McGrath from Cedar Rapids, Iowa was digging away to prepare the period vegetable garden. Darcie is a devoted docent who drives or flies in 5 or 6 times a year.

She will be speaking at the Women's Contributions & Challenges on June 1 -3 at the Lady Farm about the rise of mysticism during and after the civil war as the country mourned the soldiers who marched off to war and failed to return.



A Tea-riffic Celebration by Rebecca Lady Society

The spirit of Rebecca Lady was alive and well inside the Daniel (Rebecca) Lady Farmhouse on May 5 as the Rebecca Lady Society hosted a tea in observance of her 193rd birthday, *though friends assert she doesn't look a day over 185.*

As the photos testify, guests enjoyed a wide array of period treats, including three homemade pies crafted by docent Kathy Sanko who, due to a foot injury, was unable to help out at the event itself.



Venture Crew 1861 News

May is the busiest month of the year for the Venture Crew Fife and Drum Corps.

This May, they started on May 5th with "Mayfest," sponsored by the Maytown Historical Society. The Fife & Drum Corps performed on the town square. They also performed May 18-20 at the Battle of New Market, Virginia. The Memorial Day weekend brought participation in several parades and memorial events.

From June 2 -10, Venture Crew 1861 crew members put aside the uniforms and instruments for an Allagash River Canoe Trip through the rapids of northern Maine along with Boy Scout Troop 83. High adventure Scouting!

A few other events, then GETTYSBURG, July 4-8. At the 155th Anniversary Battle of Gettysburg, Venture Crew 1861 will provide camp and field duties for the Union HQ and scheduled performances in the Activities Tent in the Sutler's area.

For more information on schedules and how one can participate in the Venture Crew 1861 contact:

Michael Cassidy, GBPA Board Member and Advisor, B.S.A. Venture Crew 1861 Fife & Drum Corps

For more information: www.fieldmusic.org . On Facebook: "Civil War Field Music, 1st PRVC"

Email: fifeanddrum@comcast.net

Daniel Lady Farmhouse back in business after major repairs

Five months after a runaway pickup truck smashed through the side of the farmhouse on the Historic Daniel Lady Farm, extensive repairs were completed in time for the farm's opening on April 14.

The fieldstone house, which dates back to the 1820's, was heavily damaged when it was struck on Nov. 11. Police said the driver of the vehicle suffered a medical emergency before it left the roadway and slammed into the west wall of the front sitting room. The driver survived the medical incident and the crash.

The truck came to rest part way into the sitting room, destroying the fireplace and mantle and an interior wall and damaging the floor in the room and an adjacent hallway. There was special concern for the sitting room floor, which is marked by bloodstains from wounded Confederate officers treated during the Battle of Gettysburg.

The house was used as a field hospital for wounded officers and the nearby barn served wounded rank and file.

The repairs brought the house back to its original condition. The

GBPA purchased the 145-acre farm in 1999 and worked several years, along with assistance from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, to meticulously restore the house and barn.

Volunteer docents guide visitors through the house and barn where they hear how the buildings were used as a Confederate field hospital and learn about medical practices at the time and the advances developed at the Camp Letterman General Hospital established nearby following the battle.



They also tell about the construction of the house and barn and their restoration and guide visitors through the period garden, a new feature this year.

Admission is \$10 for adults. Children 15 and under admitted free.

"We have the free admission for children 15 and under to make the Farm more affordable to families," said GBPA President Barb Mowery. "We especially want to encourage young people to learn about the Civil War, its sacrifices and bravery, its impact on our nation and the enduring legacy of the American people, military and civilian, involved in the Battle of Gettysburg," said Mowery.

Civil War Preservation Ball tally passes \$100k landmark

The 15th annual Civil War Preservation Ball held March 10 put the total amount of money raised for the Pennsylvania Gettysburg Monuments Project over the dance's history to more than \$100,000. It raised an estimated \$7,680 through ticket sales and sponsors.

The Project provides repair and maintenance funding for the more than 140 Pennsylvania monuments and markers on the Gettysburg Battlefield.

Better than 120 guests from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee and Virginia attended the Preservation Ball on Saturday, March 10 in the Pennsylvania Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg.

The Ball is sponsored by the Victorian Dance Ensemble and the Civil War Dance Foundation. Music was provided by the Philadelphia Brigade Band under



the direction of Rich Cummines.

The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association assists with the Ball and is also a supporter of the Pennsylvania Gettysburg Monuments Project.

Pennsylvania State Rep. Harry Readshaw of Allegheny County founded the project in 1997 after he learned the park lacked funding to cover the cost to repair and restore the needs of more than 1,000 monuments in the park. Over the years, with the help of volunteers and allocations from the General Assembly, the monuments honoring Pennsylvanians have been restored and maintained.

The Project now is centered on funding trusts for the monuments to ensure their future maintenance.

"The Pennsylvanians who fought at Gettysburg stood their ground to the utmost and we honor their bravery and sacrifice," Readshaw said. "I thank everyone who supported the Civil War Preservation Ball, because it benefits a national park that seeks to preserve our history for current and future generations."

The 2019 Civil War Preservation Ball will be held on March 30. To see photos from the 2018 ball or for more information, visit the Victorian Dance Ensemble website: www.civilwardance.org.



New benefits for GBPA Membership

A GBPA membership card NOW includes a host of great benefits such as:

- **Free admission** to the Daniel Lady Farm House and Hospital tours
- **10% discount** at O'Rourke's Family Eatery, excluding daily specials and alcohol, located at 44 Steinwehr Ave., Gettysburg
- **10% discount** at Sunset Ice Cream Parlor located at 33 Steinwehr Ave., Gettysburg
- **local resident discounted rate** of \$8 for Ghosts of Gettysburg Candlelight Walking Tours located at 271 Baltimore St., Gettysburg, which represents a 15-20% discount off of the regular rates
- **15% discount** at the GBPA Gift Shop located at the Daniel Lady Farm
- **15% discount** at the Home Front General Store located at 777 Baltimore Street in Gettysburg
- **10% OFF** a one-day pass to Colonial Williamsburg in Williamsburg, VA (a reciprocating museum)
- **Subscription** to GBPA's "Battle Lines" Newsletter
- **Invitation** to special members-only events

For information on all things going on at the GBPA, please visit www.gbpa.org.



GBPA -- Mars Landing Update

You may recall in our last newsletter that GBPA member Wade Hisiro and the team from the University of Virginia were one of five finalists in NASA's Big Ideas Challenge for 2018.

Wade and his teammates tackled viable concepts, designs, installation plans and operation of a large solar-power system on the desolate planet. They travelled to NASA's Cleveland headquarters to make their final presentation to the judges in March.



It was a very close competition with all five teams finishing within five points of one another, with the team from Norwich University winning the contest.

However, one of the judges was from SSL, also known as Space Systems Loral, LLC, a global communications company based in Palo Alto, California now in the commercial satellites and space systems markets as well as robotics. The company's Director for Core Engineering was also present and offered Wade a summer internship after his presentation and Wade accepted. He is very excited about this opportunity.

Wade is now on the West Coast for the summer. But, in between the technology and other distractions, he's still assisting with updates on the GBPA website.

When life handed them lemons, they made lemonade at Historic Daniel Lady Farm

When the Neshaminy reenactment event outside Philadelphia was cancelled a little more than a week before it was scheduled in April, some disappointed reenactors found a friend to turn to, Melynda Wrightstone, Farm and Event Coordinator at GBPA.

Melynda quickly organized a living history encampment at the Historic Daniel Lady Farm. Not only did reenactors get a chance to shake off the webs of winter, Farm visitors got to see the camp life of such groups as Longstreet's Camp, the Louisiana Tigers and the Richland Rifles.

An added treat was candlelight tours of the encampments.



Upcoming events

June 30 & July 1. Artifact and Collectibles Show

Sat. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sun. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center's Allstar Expo Complex, 2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg.

The 45th GBPA Civil War Artifact and Collectibles Show will continue its reputation as one of the foremost shows in the nation. A major annual fundraiser for the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association, the show is expected to again feature more than 200 vendors and better than 300 tables of artifacts, swords, firearms, correspondence, books, photographs, documents and much more. Free Parking. Admission; \$8 (Children 12 and under free if accompanied by an adult) Vendors contact: bsynnamon@gmail.com. For more information: www.gbpa.org. Email info@gbpa.org.

August 25 & 26. Medical Living History

10a.m. - 4 p.m. Sat. & Sun.

Historic Daniel Lady Farm, 1008 Hanover St.

"Gettysburg: The Medical Aftermath," explores what the people of Gettysburg experienced in the days and weeks following the 1863 battle in coping with the wounded, dying and dead. Held at the Historic Daniel Lady Farm, a Confederate field hospital, the focus will be on the medical advancements made during the war and the many firsts

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that happened at Gettysburg. A number of these innovations are still used in medicine today. A free, family-friendly event. 10 - 4 Sat. & Sun. Information: www.gbpa.org. Email: info@gbpa.org.

Sept. 22. Ride for the Monuments

11 a.m.

Commonwealth Avenue behind the State Capitol in Harrisburg

The Alliance of Bikers Aimed Toward Education (A.B.A.T.E.) has conducted this ride every year since 2001, rain or shine. The trek benefits the Pennsylvania Gettysburg Monuments Project and the GBPA's Daniel Lady Farm.

Sign-up begins at 11 a.m. with a requested donation of \$10 per person. After a brief program, the ride leaves Harrisburg at 1 p.m. and proceeding to Battlefield Harley-Davidson/Buell on Route 30 east of Gettysburg. A short ceremony follows the ride along with refreshments provided by Battlefield Harley-Davidson/Buell.

More Information about this event, also known as "Readshaw's Ride for the Monuments," can be obtained by contacting State Representative Harry Readshaw's Harrisburg office at 717-783-0411 or through gettysburg@pahouse.net. Readshaw's office can also provide additional information about the Pennsylvania Gettysburg Monuments Project and on the GBPA website at: www.gbpa.org.

A.B.A.T.E. of Pennsylvania has information about the ride at:

www.abatepa.org/Events/Gettysburg_Ride.html.

Sept. 22 & 23. Cavalry Reenactment

10a.m. - 4 p.m. Sat. & Sun.

"Brice's Crossroads Attack"

Historic Daniel Lady Farm, 1008 Hanover St. The Farm hosts a cavalry reenactment for the first time. The scenario will be a reenactment of the battle of Brice's Crossroads in Mississippi in June of 1864 when a contingent of Confederate cavalry under Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest outflanked a superior Union force.

(continued)

(more)

The \$10 entry fee for people 16 and older includes a tour of the Daniel Lady farmhouse and barn, which were a Confederate field hospital during the Battle of Gettysburg. Children 15 and under are admitted free when accompanied by an adult. For more information: www.gbpa.org. Email: info@gbpa.org.

Nov. 17. GBPA Annual Banquet

A recognition of Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association efforts during the year to carry on the legacy of Gettysburg for future generations. Remarks by historians and awards for local preservation efforts. Music from

B.S.A. Venture Crew 1861, portraying the 1st Pennsylvania Reserves Volunteer Fife & Drum Corps. Evening will commence at 6 p.m. Location and ticket price TBD. For more information: www.gbpa.org.

December 8 Holiday House Tour and Tasting

Historic Daniel Lady Farm, 1008 Hanover St.

Sponsored by Inns of the Gettysburg Area

The Historic Daniel Lady Farm is one of the stops on this annual tour of historic inns, homes and properties decorated for the holiday celebrations of the 1860's. More information at:

www.gettysburgbedandbreakfast.com/holiday/holiday.php.

Message from the President

Friends,

Good news has been popping up quickly this spring, and there's lots of it.

Volunteers at the Historic Daniel Lady Farm have been especially active, making improvements to Scout camp sites, spiffing up the buildings and grounds and helping make our weekend programs memorable for our growing number of visitors.

The sight of the Farm today is so inspiring and our volunteers are the lifeblood that makes it so!

On the initiative of Board of Trustees member Carl Hisiro, the GBPA has greatly beefed-up the benefits for GBPA members.

A GBPA membership card now gains discounts at several area merchants and a reduced admission fee at Colonial Williamsburg in Williamsburg, Virginia. You may have already seen it, but back on page 7, there's a more detailed rundown of the member benefits.

We are very appreciative of the support expressed by the State of Vermont Legislature in April that totally corroborates our campaign to save the remaining portions of the Camp Letterman Hospital site north of the Historic Daniel Lady Farm.

The first general hospital tent city established during the war to treat equally the casualties of both armies was run by Dr. Henry Janes, a U.S. Army surgeon from Vermont.

Vermont historian and author Howard Coffin spearheaded the campaign for the official legislation, and had the backing of many groups and individual who want to ensure that the contribution of Dr. Janes to the treatment of battlefield casualties and upgrading hospital procedures in general, some of which are still used today, are not forgotten.

The Vermont resolution has been forwarded to S & A Homes of State College, Pennsylvania. The company is planning residential development for a large tract of land that includes 17 acres where a portion of Camp Letterman was located.

A presentation copy will be delivered to the Vermont Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C.

In addition to the Vermont legislative support, Pennsylvania is also working on a state Camp Letterman Resolution, which we hope will be voted on this month.

We will follow Vermont's footsteps by hopefully meeting Pennsylvania's congressional delegation and presenting them a copy of our General Assembly resolution.

We urge other concerned individuals, organizations, reenactment units to write in support of this land.

GBPA has met with S & A representatives several times on this issue, including two sessions with Chief Executive Officer Bob Poole, the most recent of was two years ago at which we asked for his help in this preservation quest.

**S & A Homes
Corporate Headquarters
2121 Old Gatesburg Rd. Suite 200
State College, PA 16803
(814) 231-4780**

Thanks are owed GBPA member and Camp Letterman Committee Chairman Glen Hayes for his persistence in communicating with the Civil War community to save Camp Letterman. He's worked on the research for over 16 years and from information developed from two GBPA archeological studies on the northern part of the Daniel Lady Farm.

While they were uttered just over 50 years before the Battle of Gettysburg, the GBPA remembers the words and spirit of Capt. James Lawrence as his ship fought a desperate battle against a British frigate: "Don't Give Up the Ship" (or land in this case).

Barb

Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association 2018 Annual Membership Form

Thank you for your annual membership! Founded in 1959, the GBPA continues its mission to preserve our American heritage through land preservation & advocacy, living history programs, lectures, seminars, Daniel Lady Farm tours, and support of Scouting. **With your support we look forward to preserving our history for generations to come.**

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email (print clearly): _____
Telephone: _____
Date: _____ Type: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Annual Membership Benefits include

_____ Individual \$30

- Free Admission to Daniel Lady Farm House and Hospital Tours *Does Not Include Special Events

- 10% Discount at O'Rorke's Family Eatery (excluding daily specials and alcohol) located at 44 Steinwehr Ave., Gettysburg
- 10% Discount at Sunset Ice Cream Parlor located at 33 Steinwehr Ave., Gettysburg
- Local Resident Discounted Rate of \$8 for Ghosts of Gettysburg Candlelight Walking Tours located at 271 Baltimore St., Gettysburg
- 15% Discount at the Home Front General Store located at 777 Baltimore St., Gettysburg
- 10% Discount off of a one-day general pass to Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia
- 15% Discount at the GBPA store at the Daniel Lady Farm
- Subscription to "Battlelines" newsletter
- Invitation to members only events, including annual picnic
- Most benefits require showing your current GBPA membership card at time of service.

Reenactor \$15

- Same benefits as Individual Membership
- Unit or impression: _____

Family/Grand-family \$50

- Same benefits as Individual Membership for 2 Adults and all children under 18 OR Two Adults and up to 4 grandchildren under 18

Student \$10

- Same benefits as Individual Membership with valid student ID

Lifetime Individual \$500

- Individual Membership Benefits for life.

Please accept an additional donation of \$_____ on behalf of

(Organization, Scout Troop, or Reenacting Group)

Please check if you are interested in volunteer opportunities with the GBPA_____

Please check if you are interested in a Corporate Membership _____

SEND TO:

G.B.P.A.

P.O. Box 4087

Gettysburg, PA 17325

Or visit www.GBPA.org

The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association is a 501c3 nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue Code and is registered as a charitable organization with the Pennsylvania Department of State. Contributions are tax deductible.