

October 2018



Battlelines

GBPA takes lead in fight for remaining Hallowed Ground

The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association is awaiting responses from the Straban Township Planning Commission and the Township Supervisors after presenting them with a letter detailing its objections to proposed development plans between Route 30 (York Pike) and Route 116 (Hanover Pike).

The development would devour property that was known as the Wolf Farm west of GBPA's Historic Daniel Lady Farm. It is one of the last undeveloped portions of battlefield and aftermath property around the Gettysburg National Military Park.

The property is threatened by the proposed development of a new Wal-Mart super store and additional commercial structures along with access roads.

The GBPA letter outlined three areas of concern:

1. *The Confederate line as it assembled for the assaults of East Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill.*
2. *The location of Confederate artillery on the Wolf Farm that engaged Union forces on East Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill.*
3. *Plans for a connecting road between busy Route 30 (York Pike) and State Route 116 (Hanover Pike).*

"The GBPA has previously stated its concerns about the impact of commercial development bordering the Park and the Daniel Lady Farm," states the letter. "Both the Park and the GBPA are concerned that future plans respect the historic view-shed from the Park and the Historic District and that insensitive development does not close off the opportunity to interpret the sacrifice and contributions made here by soldiers, doctors, nurses and civilians of Gettysburg."

The letter emphasizes the property is part of the "hallowed ground" described by President Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address of November, 1863.

"At the very least, the developer and the Township need to complete a serious review of the historically significant events and resources impacted by the development," the GBPA letter states. "As part of that review, the developer should produce a map overlay of historic features and resources and incorporate a plan to preserve, interpret and mitigate damage to those resources."

Both the Historic Daniel Lady Farm and the Wolf Farm were important staging areas for Confederate troops and artillery throughout the battle for Culp's Hill and for the Confederate evacuation at the battle's end.

Concerned individuals can add their support to the GBPA stance to preserve hallowed ground by going to the GBPA website at www.gbpa.org.

A hogshead of more preservation news inside!

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Pennsylvania joins Vermont Legislature in support for Camp Letterman Preservation

On October 3, the Pennsylvania State Senate followed up in adopting a resolution similar to an earlier House-adopted resolution recognizing the importance of the Camp Letterman General Hospital that was established following the Battle of Gettysburg in July, 1863.

At Letterman, thousands of wounded Confederate and Union troops were gathered from area homes, barns, churches and other buildings throughout the area and provided the best care available at the time. The massive tent hospital named for Dr. Jonathan Letterman, medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, was the first to consolidate care for wounded and dying of both sides following a battle.

The PA House and Senate resolutions come at a time when the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association is crusading to preserve the remaining property where Camp Letterman was located south of York Road.

The House resolution was sponsored by Rep. Dan Moul, R-Adams, and co-sponsored by Rep. Harry Readshaw, D-Allegheny.

Richard L. Alloway, R-Adams, introduced the measure in the Senate.

The remaining 17-acres believed to be Camp Letterman property are threatened by a planned 191-acre townhouse development by S & A Homes of State College, Pennsylvania.

The GBPA has been supported in asking S & A Homes to set-aside the 17-acres by a letter-writing campaign by people from at least 35 states, 3 foreign countries, preservation organizations, individual living historians and authors, civil war round tables, civil war organizations and other living history groups.

The State of Vermont made its support of the GBPA effort official. In May, the Vermont Senate and House of Representatives adopted a resolution that states "the General Assembly supports the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association's effort to preserve the Camp Letterman hospital site and requests that S & A Homes set aside these 17 acres of historic ground."

Camp Letterman was administered by Dr. Henry Janes, a Waterbury, Vermont, physician and U.S. Army surgeon.

GBPA Camp Letterman committee member Barb Mowery noted the bipartisan support for the Camp Letterman resolutions in the Pennsylvania House and Senate.

"We are not trying to stop the entire 191-acre townhouse development by S & A Homes," said Mowery. "We are appealing to their patriotism and asking that they shave off the 17 acres that were part of Camp Letterman."

Representatives of the GBPA have met with S & A representatives on a number of occasions, but have received no assurances that the Letterman ground won't be dug-up and paved for roads and residences.

Supporters of the GBPA Letterman preservation campaign are asked to send letters to: S & A Homes; ATTN: Bob Poole, Pres. & CEO; 2121 Old Gatesburg Road, Suite 200, State College, PA 16803.

Camp Letterman

The Very Dregs of the Battle

An article by GBPA Camp Letterman Committee Chairman, member Glen Hayes, in the Fall 2018 edition of The Loyal Legion Historical Journal

The Battle of Gettysburg was fought from July 1 to July 3, 1863 resulting in 51,000 casualties. When the armies left Gettysburg, more than 20,000 wounded soldiers were left behind in field hospitals, churches, schools, private homes, and elsewhere. In the three weeks that followed the battle, the Union medical department put forth a herculean effort to ready 16,000 of the wounded to be transported by rail to hospitals in various towns and cities. However, the condition of more than 4,000 Union and Confederate wounded was too serious to travel.

A decision was made that if the wounded could not be sent to a hospital, then a hospital would be brought to the wounded. Camp Letterman General Hospital, named for Dr. Jonathan Letterman, Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, would be set up about a mile from Gettysburg.

Although the hospital would consist of tents instead of buildings, it would be run the same as a general hospital operating in a permanent structure. It would be the first general hospital located on a battlefield.

Dr. Henry Janes was the medical officer in charge of all the hospitals in and around Gettysburg, while Dr. Cyrus Chamberlain was the surgeon in charge at Letterman. Dr. Janes mandated that there would be no difference in the care of the patients.

Union and Confederate wounded would be treated the same. As it was, both Union and Confederate wounded were now fighting against the same foe—death. Although some wounded were admitted to Camp Letterman as early as July 14, the official opening was on July 22. All the wounded were brought to Camp Letterman from the surrounding area. Some soldiers were in such poor shape that moving them by the springless ambulances would have proven fatal; these soldiers were transported by stretcher.

A nurse at Letterman said the line of stretchers was a mile-and-a-half long. The patients would be cared for at Letterman until they were able to be moved by rail to permanent hospitals or, as in the case of the Confederates, to prison camps.

The story of Camp Letterman is one of suffering, sorrow, death, and recovery. The wounded at Camp Letterman consisted of those with amputations, head wounds, internal organ wounds, and many other serious injuries. All in all, the wounded at Letterman were in the worst shape possible.

Franklin Stokes of the Pennsylvania Militia who was a guard at Camp Letterman said he could hear the shrieks of the wounded even when he was half a mile from the hospital.

A nurse at Letterman, who when describing the wounded, said “it is horrible to say, but they were literally the very dregs of the battle.” The doctors, nurses, U.S. Sanitary Commission workers, U.S. Christian Commission volunteers, and others would do their best to keep the wounded at Camp Letterman alive and get them well enough to be moved. The task was daunting.



Sophonria Bucklin, a nurse at Camp Letterman, described some of the wounded in her care: “An interesting group, one section of the ward was composed of five young men who each had lost a leg in the battle. One was from Michigan, two from Massachusetts, and two from Pennsylvania. All of them recovered, and I often have the satisfaction of hearing from one or another of them.”¹

Out of the 4,000-plus wounded soldiers at Camp Letterman, 365 soldiers (176 Union and 189 Confederate) died of their wounds in the four months Letterman was in operation.

For a period of 59 straight days, from July 25 through September 21, one or more soldiers died there. The worst day was August 15 when 17 soldiers died.

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Contemporary readers can get an idea of the soldiers at Camp Letterman and the wounds they suffered by considering this representative sampling: • N.B. Hindman, 13th Mississippi, gunshot wound to the left lung and knee. Died 8/15/63. • James Swanner, 5th Alabama, gunshot wound to head, shoulder, and hip. Died 8/15/63. • George Case, 5th Ohio, gunshot wound to the spine. Died 8/2/63. • Dennis Wallace, Battery I, 5th U.S. Artillery, fracture in both legs, legs amputated July 4. Died 8/2/63.

We can only imagine the thoughts of the wounded laying in the tents at Camp Letterman. They were probably similar to those held by the wounded today: the farmer who wondered how he would work his farm with only one leg or the 18-year-old with a horribly disfigured face wondering if any girl would ever fall in love with him. Through the efforts of the Camp Letterman personnel and the will to survive of the wounded, a majority of the patients survived and eventually left Letterman.

However, there are also stories of tragic mistakes.

James Perrine, age 21, of the 2nd Wisconsin of the famed Iron Brigade, was wounded on July 1. After spending three weeks in a field hospital, he was sent to Camp Letterman. After another three weeks, and well on his way to recovery, Perrine suffered a terrible misfortune. Nurse Bucklin recorded what happened to the soldier: "He became convalescent hourly and expected a furlough to go home. He had not been taken from the medicine list and one morning, as usual, took the prescription, but was soon compelled to lie down. He was seized with a deadly coldness and shivered incessantly. His muscles contracted with jerking movements and great sweat drops gathered on his cold forehead." Perrine died at 11 o'clock that morning. "The last prescription, by some awful mistake, was deadly poison and nothing could have saved him," Bucklin wrote. "I had often heard him talk of home and friends, but do not know if they ever learned of how he died."2

When the families learned that their loved one had been wounded and sent to a hospital, they held out hope for a recovery. For the families of the 365 soldiers who died at Letterman, that hope was dashed.

Even in death the Union and Confederate soldiers were treated the same. When they died they were buried according to when they died, not by which side they fought on. Union and Confederate soldiers would be buried side by side, but mistakes were made even with the dead. Three Union soldiers who died at Camp Letterman were buried in the South as Confederates. Apparently their headboards were mistakenly inscribed or the writing had smudged where "Vt" for Vermont looked like "Va" for Virginia.

These soldiers were left behind in the Camp Letterman cemetery when the Union bodies were removed because they were thought to be Confederates. They were removed along with the other Confederate dead in 1871-1873. They are: • Frank Smith, 14th Vermont, was buried as Frank Smith, 14th Virginia, in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond Virginia. • John Dolson, 2nd U.S.S.S., was buried as John Dobson, 2nd North Carolina, in Oakwood Cemetery, Raleigh, North Carolina. • Jacob Phieffer, 40th New York, was buried as J. Fifer, 4th North Carolina, also in Oakwood Cemetery, Raleigh.



The late Charles Purser of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Raleigh conducted the research necessary to identify Dolson and Phieffer and to ensure they both have correct headstones. Researchers hope that Frank Smith will eventually get his proper headstone.

Of the estimated eight Confederates buried by mistake in the Gettysburg National Military Cemetery, three came from Camp Letterman. They are: • Eli Green, 14th Virginia, was interred as E. Green, 14th Pennsylvania • John Johnson, 14th Mississippi, was interred as J. Johnson, 14th Massachusetts • Minion Knott, 1st Maryland Battalion (C.S.), was buried as M. Knott, 1st Maryland (U.S.).

Another Confederate soldier from Camp Letterman was likely buried by mistake in the National Cemetery, George Simmons who fought with the 2nd North Carolina Battalion. He is buried in the U.S. Regulars Section (most probably in grave #2) as Unknown, 2nd US Battalion.

Camp Letterman was closed on November 20, 1863. Despite calls throughout the last 130 years to preserve the historic site, the roughly 100 original acres that made up the hospital grounds are quickly falling into the hands of developers. Only the 55 acres that comprised the core of the hospital site remain.

Eight acres of land that held tents for the wounded have been successfully preserved as part of the Daniel Lady Farm by the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association (GBPA).

For the past 14 years the GBPA has prevented developers from destroying the remaining 47 acres. It is the organization's goal to preserve this area and one day incorporate it into the Gettysburg National Military Park. ☺

1Bucklin, Sophronia, "In Hospital and Camp: A Woman's Record of Thrilling Incidents Amid the Late War." 1869. pg.169. 2Bucklin, Ibid. pg.181-182.

To see a video of a newscast with the ceremony and story behind the new headstone for John Dolson, see: www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGrFDmIQdZ8.

Battlefield land will host "Fall Farm, Skirmish" Oct. 20 & 21

The Historic Daniel Lady Farm will be the setting for the Fall Farm Skirmish October 20 and 21 as units of the First and Second Regiments of the Federal Volunteer Brigade will face off with the 7th Louisiana Infantry and local Confederate forces in a live-action skirmish.

The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association plans for the exchanges of fire to occur over 10 acres of its historic farm at 1008 Hanover Street that was held by the Confederates during the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

There was skirmishing on the farm during the first day of the battle and both the house and barn were struck by Union artillery fire.

Confederate troops formed up across the farm for their assault on Culp's Hill and, as the wounded were brought back, both became a field hospital. Blood from casualties still stains the floor of the house and the barn is marked with shrapnel and graffiti left by soldiers.

Around 300 reenactors representing the North and South are expected to take part in the skirmishes.

The program will run both days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Skirmishing will commence at 2 p.m.



Visitors will be able to tour the house and barn and see living histories of the field hospitals set up to care for the wounded and dying.

In addition to the living histories and skirmish, visitors will also be see period antiques and hear about the Daniel Lady family and how they contended with the battle and its devastation of its aftermath.

An added feature on Saturday will be a concert by noted historic musician Kent Courtney from 3 - 5 p.m. for the

entertainment of troops and visitors.

Food and refreshments will be available for purchase on site.

Proceeds from the event will go toward maintaining the scouting and history programs at the Historic Daniel Lady Farm.

GBPA President Brendon Synnamon said the weekend will be a treat both for visitors and Civil War reenactors.

"This has been a pretty rough year for reenactors with several events being cancelled for various reasons," said Synnamon. "The Fall Farm Skirmish is an opportunity for a number of them to burn some powder late in the season and for the GBPA and the Historic Daniel Lady Farm to try our hand at a larger event than we have staged in the past."

Admission to the event is \$10 a day persons 16 and up. As always, children 15 and under are admitted free.

The regular weekend tours of the Historic Daniel Lady Farm will conclude for the season after Nov. 4 except for 2 special events, including the annual Holiday House Tour Dec. 8.



Diana-

*I just wanted to thank you and the folks at the Daniel Lady Farm for allowing us to camp there this past weekend. The boys really enjoyed the tour of the barn and farmhouse. The docent did a fantastic job. She made the presentation so entertaining that the boys were engaged the entire time and really got a lot out of the tour. Thanks for offering such great programming. Staying at the farm and understanding the history of the area really does enhance the educational experience for the scouts. Thanks again!
-Kristin Shaffer*



Hundreds roll in Readshaw's 18th annual 'Ride to Gettysburg'

The 18th Annual 'Ride to Gettysburg' held on Sept. 22 from Harrisburg drew several hundred riders from around the commonwealth, according to ride organizer, state Rep. Harry Readshaw, D-Allegheny.

The event sponsored by the Alliance of Bikers Aimed Toward Education (A.B.A.T.E.), supports the Pennsylvania Gettysburg Monuments Trust. Created by Readshaw in 1997 as the Pennsylvania Gettysburg Monuments Project, the trust

helps assure future repair and maintenance of the commonwealth's more than 140 monuments and markers on the Battlefield at Gettysburg. A portion also goes to the maintenance of the Historic Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg, restored and operated by the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association,

"I was thrilled to see another strong turnout this year," Readshaw said. "This event is such a terrific opportunity for Pennsylvania's vibrant motorcycle community to come out and show their patriotic spirit while contributing to a cause that helps preserve a vital part of the commonwealth's heritage."



A historic group of women bikers, the Motor Maids, wearing white vests and led by former state Rep. Teresa Forcier, served as the ride marshals to Battlefield Harley Davidson in Gettysburg. Also attending were state Rep. Dan Moul, R-Adams, and the Zembo Shrine Mounted and Motorcycle Units.

After a pre-ride ceremony at Soldier's Grove at the State Capitol Building, Readshaw and Moul recognized Charlie Umbenhauer, of A.B.A.T.E. of Pennsylvania, for his years of support and dedication to the Monuments Project. Other participants received certificates for their continued support.

The God Bless America Motorcycle Color Guard then led approximately 375 riders to Gettysburg.

The event featured both traditional motorcycles and "slingshot" three-wheeled bikes such as the one in which Readshaw led the procession, which was provided by Hernley's Slingshot and Indian Motorcycle in Elizabethtown.

Readshaw established the Monuments Project to fund desperately needed cleaning and repairs for Pennsylvania monuments, most of which were erected by veterans of the battle with the assistance of allocations approved by the state General Assembly.





Commemorative Rifle Raffle

Drawing Nov. 16

For the last several months, GBPA has been selling raffle tickets at events for a 150th Gettysburg Anniversary Henry Rifle. The rifle, chambers for .22 caliber bullets, has a handsomely-engraved stock

commemorating the epic clash at Gettysburg in July 1863.

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

Tickets will be on sale at

the Farm Fall Skirmish Oct. 20 & 21 and at the annual GBPA banquet on Nov. 16. The winning ticket will be drawn at the conclusion of the banquet.



Old Glory Relay takes a breather at Historic Daniel Lady Farm



In September, the Historic Daniel Lady Farm provided a brief respite for members of Team RWB as 10,000 veterans and supporters relayed a U.S. flag on a 4,300 mile journey across the country. The relay began Sept. 11 in Boston.

The Lady Farm provided a check-point and flag hand-off site to begin the second part of a 60 mile leg of the run that day. The run to earn funds for veterans services and improve bonds between

veterans and civilian supporters.

Runners found cold bottles of water and convenient porta-johns at the farm, paused briefly for photographs, then were quickly on the road again.

Team RWB will conclude the relay of the flag on November 18 in Dan Diego.



Fall Farm Frolic Fun

While public attendance was lighter than hoped, everyone involved with the Fall Farm Frolic on Sept. 29 at the Historic Daniel Lady Farm enjoyed the event and agreed that it was a great idea that should be continued in 2019.

The Adams County 4H teamed-up with the Rebecca Lady Society for the family-oriented “down on the farm” day. Farm and service animals interacted with children and adults alike. Warm and fuzzy displays provided by 4H bunny club members were especially popular as were young dogs being groomed as service animals for the disabled.

Dr. Holly Rau again traveled in from Warren, Ohio, this time accompanied by Lil’ Comanche to take visitors on pony cart rides.

Farm Frolic participants shook their own butter out of heavy cream butter, using the finished product as



a dip for hand-made pretzels they formed.

There was little rest for the Rebecca Lady Society members operating the old-time photos display that many kids and adults tool part in.



Watch for more farm frolicking next year.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Annual GBPA Dinner – Nov. 16

This year, the annual membership dinner of the GBPA travels to the Inn at Herr Ridge, also popularly referred to as Herr's Tavern, off Route 30 west of Gettysburg.

The dinner is a recognition of Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association efforts over the past year to carry on the legacy of preserving Gettysburg for future generations.

At this year's dinner, officers of GBPA will provide a report on the organization's exciting plans for 2019, including the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the GBPA.

Members will also see artist renditions of the planned renovation of the education and headquarters building east of the Lady Farm that we acquired last year.

There will be music from B.S.A. Venture Crew 1861, portraying the 1st Pennsylvania Reserves Volunteer Fife & Drum Corps.

Cocktails will start at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Meal choices are Butter Basted Chicken or Dry Rubbed NY Strip Steak.

The ticket price is \$35 for an individual and \$65 for a couple.

Tickets can be purchased online using our PayPal account or by sending a check to GBPA, P.O. Box 4087, Gettysburg, PA 17325 at least one week before the event. Please mark your payment with your dinner choice(s).

For more information: www.gbpa.org. Email: info@gbpa.org.

Remembrance Day Reenactors Sendoff – Nov. 18

On Sunday, November 18, the day after the big Remembrance Day parade and Civil War balls, the Rebecca Lady Society volunteers will host a Remembrance Day Reenactors Sendoff from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Historic Daniel Lady Farm.

Several military and civilian units coming into town have been invited to attend the FREE breakfast open house to promote the Farm and the importance of volunteering.

In addition, flyers will be at all the hotels and several B&B's and Rebecca Lady Society volunteers armed with brochures, business cards and volunteer applications will circulate at the parade and the different events they will be attending.

IF YOU'RE A REENACTOR AND WILL BE IN GETTYSBURG FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY WEEKEND, ADD OUR FREE BREAKFAST OPEN HOUSE TO YOUR PLANS – AND INVITE YOUR REENACTOR PARDS.

Holiday House Tour and Tasting – Dec. 8



The Daniel Lady Farm will again be on the itinerary of the annual Holiday House Tour and Tasting sponsored by the Inns of the Gettysburg Area.

Inclusion in the program is a special honor in that the Lady Farm is the only stop that does not operate as an Inn.

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:

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



Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association 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): _____
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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