



July 2019 Newsletter

Meeting Schedule for 2019

Meeting dates for 2019 are as follows:

July 18 = Presentation: Hugh Boyle on *Collateral Damage from the Assassination of President Lincoln*

August 15 = Presentation by Andy Waskie as General George Meade.

September 19 = Presentation by Michael Wunsch on *In the gift of the people: Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson and the National Union Party Convention, Baltimore, June 7- 8, 1864*

October 17

November 21

PLEASE, friends, send me articles, book reviews, etc to help me fill up the newsletter!

Round Table Officers

President: John Herr
241 80th St., Avalon, NJ 08202
609-636-2551
avalonjohn@aol.com

Vice President: Lou Bishop Jr.
21 Schoolhouse Ln, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
609-463-9277 or 741-5438
louiebish22@gmail.com

Secretary: Pat Munson-Siter

42 Franklin Ave., Villas, NJ 08251-2407
609-287-5097
patms1766@outlook.com

Treasurer: Hank Heacock
105 S. Dennis Rd., CMCH, NJ, 08210
Dianeruth54@hotmail.com

DUES ARE DUE!!!

And can be mailed to our treasurer, Hank Heacock, whose address is above.



President's Update

1) Hugh Boyle will present a surprising collection of odd and unusual happenings related to the Lincoln assassination at our upcoming Thursday, July 18 meeting. Hugh has been a very active member of and recently retired president of the GAR Museum in Philadelphia in addition to his many Civil War research, archiving and speaking activities. He is an entertaining speaker and all will be impressed by his home spun tales of mystery, intrigue and happenstance surrounding the assassination.

2) We have had excellent speakers at our meetings this year starting in April with Mike Kochan who gave us an "inside" view of the famous ironclad, "The Monitor" including interesting technical details about the design, construction, and battle experience of this riverboat that changed the design of all ships forever thereafter. In May, Robert Holden described the life and times of Abraham Lincoln including displaying handouts and numerous antiques and manuscripts from the 1800's. The unforgettable Don Ermsberger led the June meeting with a lively discussion of how a Civil War battle over Philadelphia would have played out if General Lee had not been intercepted and defeated at Gettysburg. An interesting "what if" scenario is detailed in his book entitled "Stars and Bars over Philadelphia". Please encourage friends and family to attend future meetings. These speakers were too good to miss!

3) The August meeting will feature the well known author, historian and professor, Andy Waskie. Andy will dress as Union General George Meade, the hero of Gettysburg and will regale you with details of the famous General's life and times. DO NOT miss this one! September will feature Michael Wunsch, an excellent speaker, who is also very active in numerous Civil War organizations in the area. Michael will speak about the election of 1864 and its effect on the future. More on this next month. October and November are still open at this time. Please

send suggestions if you want to hear about a particular topic or from a particular speaker.

4) I am pleased to announce that Hank Heacock has agreed to take over the responsibilities of Treasurer for this year replacing Ed Vargo who is moving back to Pittsburgh. Welcome Hank! We are all looking forward to working with you this year. While I am on the subject of the treasurer, several longstanding members have not paid their dues yet for 2019. This year we will spend more money on speakers than we will bring in and we are eating into our reserves. So please send your dues to Hank or me if we want to keep up the quality of our speakers. \$30 spread over eight months (assuming you attend all meetings) is less than \$4 per night. Don't you agree that this is a pretty reasonable yet entertaining night out?

5) Hank Heacock and Charlie Gruff are bringing the post meeting snacks this month. We still need a volunteer to bring snacks for the October meeting. This is a good chance to talk with the speaker and other members about the night's presentation and take advantage of the comradery. Let me know if you can do it.

6) The raffle at the end of the meeting is used to raise money to allow our round table to contribute to worthy battlefield preservation organizations/projects. These monies are kept separate and are not used for speaker fees. Please contribute liberally if you can to help save these valuable properties for posterity. We have recently given several donations to the "Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation" preservation fund, a very worthy cause. Let me know if you have another favorite preservation cause. We may be able to help.

7) At the June meeting it was agreed to give a \$100 donation to the Museum of Cape May County for letting us use their "Military" room for our monthly meeting. We appreciate their support before, during and after our meetings. We have made a similar donation to "The Museum" in previous years.

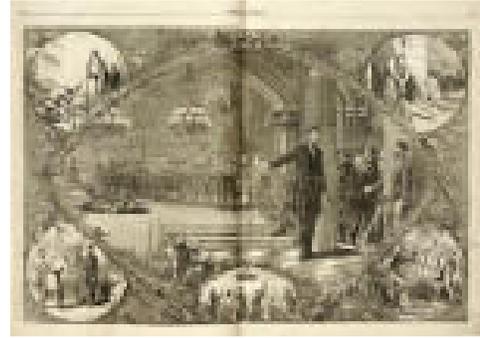
8) Does anyone know a web developer? (Inexpensive or free??). I would like to update our (CMCCWRT) web page. Any suggestions? Does anyone have a connection to the CMC Community College? High school student?

9) A new Civil War related book has come to my attention. It is titled "John George Nicolay, the man in Lincoln's Shadow" and is written by Allen Carden and Thomas Ebert. I have a copy of the preface and outline if anyone is interested in seeing it. It is discounted to CWRT members from \$52 to \$35. Let me know.

10) Brian Ross, a volunteer at the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park wrote to me asking for help in researching the 5th-6th NJ Regiments so he could improve the park tours. If you want to help Brian with his research, please let me know.

See you at the Thursday, July 18 meeting. Respectfully submitted:

John Herr, President



Civil War Events in August

1861

- 10 – Battle of Wilson's Creek (MO)
- 11 – Union Soldiers Occupy Hatteras Island (NC)

1862

- 9 – Battle of Cedar Island (VA)
- 29 – 30 – Second Battle of Manassas/Bull Run (VA)

1863

- 21 – Burning of Lawrence (KS) by Quantrill

1864

- 5 – Battle of Mobile Bay (AL)

Civil War Re-enactments, Lectures, other Events in August 2019

- 2 **VA** Car-caravan, walking tour, "Exploring the Civil War Entrenchments at Cedar Creek," meets at the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHS visitor station, 7712 Main St, Middletown. 7 pm. Free. [nps.gov/cebe](https://www.nps.gov/cebe)
- 3 **PA** "Ford Family Day," at the Gettysburg NMP. Free admission to Gettysburg Cyclorama, film and museum, special ranger-led hikes and campfire programs. Begins 8 am. Schedule: [gettysburgfoundation.org/who-we-are/news/2019-news/ford-family-day-2019](https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/who-we-are/news/2019-news/ford-family-day-2019)
- 3 **VA** Living history, "Revolutionary vs. Civil War," compare soldier life at the Rector House, 1461 Atoka Road, Marshall. 10 am-4 pm. Free. [mosbyheritagearea.org](https://www.mosbyheritagearea.org)
- 3 **VA** Ranger program, "Family Conflicted, Home Afflicted: Belmont Amidst War," lawn chair event at the historic home, 224 Washington St, Falmouth. 6:30 pm. Free. [nps.gov/frsp](https://www.nps.gov/frsp)
- 3 **VA** Conference, "The Forgotten Valley," at the George Washington Hotel in Winchester. Shenandoah Valley topics include Stonewall Jackson, Battle of Wapping Heights and Mosby's Rangers. 9 am-4 pm. \$30. Register: [shenandoahatwar.org](https://www.shenandoahatwar.org)

3-4 **WV** Living history, “Hold the High Ground, 1862,” artillery camp and demonstrations at the Harpers Ferry NHP. 11 am-4 pm. Free with park admission. [nps.gov/hafe](https://www.nps.gov/hafe)

6 **DC** Book talk, *The Great Partnership: Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and the Fate of the Confederacy* at the McGowan Theater, National Archives in Washington. Noon. Free. **BUY BOOK** Reservations recommended: [archivesfoundation.org/event/the-great-partnership](https://www.archivesfoundation.org/event/the-great-partnership)

7 **MD** Lecture, “In the Wake of Antietam: The Loudoun Valley Campaign of 1862,” at the Jacob Rohrbach Inn, 138 Main St, Sharpsburg. 7 pm. Free. [jacob-rohrbach-inn.com/blog/2019/01/2019-civil-war-lecture-series](https://www.jacob-rohrbach-inn.com/blog/2019/01/2019-civil-war-lecture-series)

8 **DC** Book talk, *Lincoln’s Spies: Their Secret War to Save a Nation*, at the McGowan Theater, National Archives in Washington. Noon. **BUY BOOK** Free. Reservations recommended: <https://www.archivesfoundation.org/event/lincolns-spies/>

10 **VA** Lecture, “The Siege of Port Hudson,” at the Mariners’ Museum in Newport News. 2:30 pm. Free with \$1 museum admission. [marinersmuseum.org](https://www.marinersmuseum.org)

10 **MD** Book talk, *Private Confederacies: The Emotional Worlds of Southern Men as Citizens and Soldiers*, at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2:30 pm. Free with admission. [civilwarmed.org](https://www.civilwarmed.org) **BUY BOOK**

10-11 **MD** Living history, Federal infantry camp and demonstrations at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. Free with park admission. [nps.gov/anti](https://www.nps.gov/anti)

10-11 **VA** Living history, “1862 — Heading North into Maryland,” Union and Confederate camps at Mt. Zion Historic Park, 40309 John Mosby Highway, Aldie. 9 am-5 pm Saturday, 10 am-3 pm Sunday. Free. [novaparks.com/parks/mt-zion-historic-park](https://www.novaparks.com/parks/mt-zion-historic-park)

11 **VA** Living history, artillery camp and demonstrations at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 1-4 pm. Free with park admission. [nps.gov/pete](https://www.nps.gov/pete)

14 **MD** Lecture, “A Last Roll of the Dice: The Third Confederate Invasion of the the North 1864,” at the Jacob Rohrbach Inn, 138 Main St, Sharpsburg. 7 pm. Free. [jacob-rohrbach-inn.com/blog/2019/01/2019-civil-war-lecture-series](https://www.jacob-rohrbach-inn.com/blog/2019/01/2019-civil-war-lecture-series)

15 **PA** Special program, “The Rest of the Story,” at the George Spangler Farm & Field Hospital, part of the Gettysburg NMP. Visit and discussion of medical aspects of the battle. Bus departs visitor center 5:20 and 5:40 pm. Program 6-7:30 pm. \$10. [gettysburgfoundation.org/who-we-are/news/2019-news/museum-visitor-center-third-thursdays](https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/who-we-are/news/2019-news/museum-visitor-center-third-thursdays)

16 **VA** Ranger program, “Free at Last: The Complicated Road to Freedom for Emmanuel Jackson,” at the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHS visitor station, 7712 Main St, Middletown. 6 pm. Free. [nps.gov/cebe](https://www.nps.gov/cebe)

17 **PA** “An Evening with the Painting,” a special behind-the-scenes look at the Gettysburg Cyclorama at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 5-7 pm. \$20/adult. Reservations: [gettysburgfoundation.org](https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org)

17 **MD** Historic house tours, “Thomas House,” at the Monocacy National Battlefield in Frederick. 10 am-4 pm. Free. [nps.gov/mono](https://www.nps.gov/mono)

17-18 **VA** Living history, infantry camp and demonstrations at the Manassas National Battlefield. Free. [nps.gov/mana](https://www.nps.gov/mana)

21 **MD** Lecture, “The Tale UnTwisted: George McClellan and the Discovery of Lee’s Lost Orders, September 13, 1862,” at the Jacob Rohrbach Inn, 138 Main St, Sharpsburg. 7 pm. Free. [jacob-rohrbach-inn.com/blog/2019/01/2019-civil-war-lecture-series](https://www.jacob-rohrbach-inn.com/blog/2019/01/2019-civil-war-lecture-series)

23 **VA** Car-caravan tour, “‘A Very Formidable Barrier’: Showdown on the Qpequon,” 10 am-noon. Free but registration required: [shenandoahatwar.org](https://www.shenandoahatwar.org)

24 **VA** Bus tour, “The Art of War: The Civil War Sketches of James E. Taylor,” includes Millwood, Berryville and Winchester. Leaves from 1461 Atoka Road, Marshall. 9 am-3 pm. \$60/lunch included. [mosbyheritagearea.org/events/taylor-tour](https://www.mosbyheritagearea.org/events/taylor-tour)

24 **VA** Ranger program, “Civil War Photographers: Risking Their Lives to Reveal the Realities of War,” at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 2 pm. Free with park admission. [nps.gov/pete](https://www.nps.gov/pete)

24 **MD** Ranger program, “Enslavement in the Free State: The Story of L’Hermitage,” the history of a French/Caribbean plantation on what became the Monocacy battlefield at the Monocacy National Battlefield in Frederick. 10 am at the Best Farm. Free. [nps.gov/mono](https://www.nps.gov/mono)

24-25 **MD** Living history, Confederate artillery and infantry camps and demonstrations at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. Free with park admission. [nps.gov/anti](https://www.nps.gov/anti)

24-25 **VA** Anniversary tours, “Battle of Kettle Run,” at the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park in Bristow. 1-4 pm. \$5. 703-366-3049.

25 **VA** Living history, artillery camp and demonstrations at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 1-4 pm. Free with park admission. [nps.gov/pete](https://www.nps.gov/pete)

28 **MD** Lecture, “People and Places at Antietam,” at the Jacob Rohrbach Inn, 138 Main St, Sharpsburg. 7 pm. Free. [jacob-rohrbach-inn.com/blog/2019/01/2019-civil-war-lecture-series](https://www.jacob-rohrbach-inn.com/blog/2019/01/2019-civil-war-lecture-series)

30 **VA** Campfire program, “Shepherdstown Comes to Manassas,” special hospital program at Ben Lomond, 10321 Sudley Manor Drive, Manassas. 7:30 pm. \$5. 703-367-7872.

31-Sept 1 **VA** Anniversary living history camps and demonstrations at the Manassas National Battlefield. Free. [nps.gov/mana](https://www.nps.gov/mana)



Biography of James Longstreet

TITLE : Lieutenant General, Confederate Forces

DATE OF BIRTH - DEATH

January 8, 1821 – January 2, 1904

Perhaps no Confederate officer is surrounded by more controversy than James Longstreet. Called “Old Pete” and “My Old War Horse” by Gen. Robert E. Lee, Longstreet was Lee’s trusted advisor and friend. But, after the war, Longstreet became the target of many “Lost Cause” attacks. His letters to the New Orleans Times, his support of the Republican Party, and his memoirs served to alienate many Southerners.

Longstreet was born in South Carolina, but spent much of his childhood at the home of his uncle, Augustus Baldwin Longstreet in Augusta, Georgia. “Uncle Gus” may have been influential in Longstreet’s early life as a fervent proponent of states’ rights. Longstreet went on to attend West Point, where he graduated fifty-fourth out of sixty-two cadets in the class of 1842. At the academy Longstreet befriended a young man from Ohio, [Ulysses S. Grant](#), and after graduation both officers would be assigned to the 4th U.S. Infantry.

Like many future Civil War generals, Longstreet’s first real war experience came during the Mexican War. From 1846 to 1848 Longstreet rendered distinguished service in some of that war’s most important battles including Vera Cruz, Churubusco, and Chapultepec, where he was wounded. Recognized for his bravery, Longstreet would also serve alongside his long-time friend and future subordinate [George Pickett](#). Following the close of the conflict, he continued his army career, participating in the Indian Wars and rising to the rank of major by 1858.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Longstreet, then serving in New Mexico Territory, resigned his commission after nearly twenty years of service. He was very quickly appointed Brigadier General under [P.G.T. Beauregard](#) and reported for duty in July of 1861. Following his first action at Blackburn’s Ford, Longstreet received praise for his coolness under fire and the manner in which he inspired his men. Longstreet and [Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson](#) were both promoted to Major General under [Joseph E. Johnston](#) in October 1861. Following his promotion Longstreet commanded a division of six brigades—the nucleus of what would eventually become the First Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia.

In January of 1862 he was dealt a devastating blow when three of his children died in rapid succession from scarlet fever. In spite of this terrible news, Longstreet performed admirably during the Peninsula Campaign, often serving as the rearguard for Johnston’s retreating army. At the Battle of Williamsburg in May 1862, General Johnston reported that he was “a mere spectator, for General Longstreet’s clear head and brave heart left me no apology for interference.” However, during the May 31 – June 1, 1862 Battle of Seven Pines, Longstreet bungled his orders and mismanaged the battle itself. General Johnston was seriously wounded and command eventually devolved

on [Robert E. Lee](#), then serving as senior military advisor to President [Jefferson Davis](#). Longstreet quickly won General Lee’s trust with his performance at the battles of Glendale and, the following day, Malvern Hill. In a campaign that foiled the Union attempt to seize Richmond, Lee wrote that “Longstreet was the staff in my right hand.” That August, at Second Manassas, Longstreet’s wing of 28,000 men counterattacked the Union forces in what the National Park Service calls “the largest, simultaneous mass assault of the war. The Union left flank was crushed and the army driven back to Bull Run.” Longstreet was also noticed for his excellent performance the following month at Antietam, and his extraordinary coolness under fire continued to be a trademark.

When Jackson’s Corps was assimilated into the Army of Northern Virginia, Longstreet was promoted to Lieutenant General and his corps was officially designated as the First Corps. During the incredibly bloody battle of Fredericksburg that December, Longstreet took advantage of the terrain to create an almost impenetrable defense along Marye’s Heights. From the heights above he used his artillery so effectively that no Union soldiers came closer than 30 yards to the infamous stone wall. From February to April 1863, Longstreet led two of his divisions to Southeast Virginia for the collecting of food and forage, and was therefore not present at the battle of Chancellorsville that May.

Longstreet did, however, rejoin Lee’s Army for the second invasion of the North and the subsequent battle of Gettysburg. An outspoken proponent of western concentration, Longstreet was skeptical about the wisdom of the invasion. A further dispute between Longstreet and his commanding general over the nature of the campaign would only grow during the battle and its aftermath. While the corps commander was under the impression the army was to wage a defensive battle whenever possible, Lee, emboldened by his recent victory at Chancellorsville, insisted on attacking the numerically superior Army of the Potomac. Longstreet’s Corps arrived on the field on July 2, 1863, one day after fighting had begun. After the Virginian denied him permission to flank the Federal army, two division’s of the First Corps launched an attack on the Union left wing late in the afternoon of July 2. Despite initial success in breaking the Federal lines, Longstreet’s men were denied victory, and casualties were high. Nevertheless, Lee was determined to exploit what he believed to be a weakness in the Union center and planned an assault for the following day. Longstreet, whose troops would spearhead the forlorn hope, voiced his strenuous objections to the plan, but was rebuffed. On July 3, in perhaps the war’s most famous episode, troops from Longstreet’s corps under Maj. General George Pickett charged across open fields to assault the Union center only to be repulsed, again at a great loss. For the remainder of his life, Longstreet would continually assert his opposition to Lee’s command decisions at Gettysburg, much to the disdain of his fellow officers. This opposition, combined with allegations that he deliberately delayed the execution of Lee’s orders, did much to tarnish Longstreet’s reputation.

That autumn, Longstreet was sent west to the aid of the beleaguered [Braxton Bragg](#). His troops arrived on September 20, just in time to rout a significant portion of the Union line at Chickamauga. Only the staunch resistance of George H. Thomas saved the Union army. The stubborn Gen. Bragg, however, was less than warm in his reception of Gen. Longstreet and his staff, especially when several of Longstreet's generals wished to have Bragg removed from command. President Davis would not remove Bragg, and Longstreet's reputation was damaged. After a difficult winter—and an abortive attempt at independent command in East Tennessee—Longstreet and his men were happy to return to the Army of Northern Virginia in April 1864.

At the Battle of the Wilderness in May 1864, Longstreet and his men performed well, finding a hidden route from which they could attack Union forces, catching them in a deadly crossfire. On May 6th, in an incident very similar to Stonewall Jackson's mortal wounding the year before, Longstreet was fired on by his own men. A minié bullet passed through Longstreet's neck and shoulder, permanently paralyzing the general's right arm. Though he survived, he did not return to his corps until October, by which time the Confederate army was dead-locked in defending the besieged city of Petersburg. Longstreet was assigned to protect Richmond and the vital railroads that supplied the city.

On April 2, 1865, Union forces broke the Confederate line at Petersburg. When [A. P. Hill](#) was killed, Longstreet took command of his Third Corps. On April 9, 1865, however, Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox. Longstreet and Lee parted ways on April 12, 1865. Longstreet moved to New Orleans, and the two men never saw each other again.

In 1867, the New Orleans Times asked several leading citizens to comment on the newly passed Reconstruction Acts. Unwisely, Longstreet suggested that Southerners support the Republicans. He was praised in the North, but vilified in the South. In June 1868, he received his pardon – by act of Congress – with help from General Grant. He supported Grant for president, and when elected, Grant nominated Longstreet to be the Surveyor of Customs for the Port of New Orleans. For this last betrayal of the South he was labeled a “scalawag.”

Many of Longstreet's actions after the war were controversial: his letters to the New Orleans Times, his support of the Republican Party, his acceptance of political appointments, and the fact that he commanded African-Americans (part of the New Orleans Metropolitan Police Force). Worst of all, he had dared to criticize Robert E. Lee's leadership. Very quickly he became the target of “Lost Cause” attacks by [Jubal Early](#), William Pendleton, Rev. J William Jones, and others. Longstreet spent the rest of his life attempting to restore his reputation. In 1889 he was dealt another huge blow. His home, Parkhill, burned to the ground in April. Then his wife, Louise, died in December.

Despite the many attacks by former officers in the Confederate Army, many men fondly remembered their days

fighting under Longstreet. In 1890 the Washington Artillery—famous for their performance at Fredericksburg—insisted that Longstreet participate at the unveiling of Lee's statue in Richmond and in 1892 at the 3rd annual United Confederate Veterans meeting former soldiers flocked to him. He spoke at the dedication of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in 1895 and attended the 1902 centennial celebration at West Point.

Longstreet published his 800-page memoirs, *From Manassas to Appomattox*, in December 1895. In September 1897 he married 34-year-old Helen Dortch; although his family was not pleased with the marriage, Helen defended Longstreet's name until she died in 1962. James Longstreet died on January 2, 1904, just days short of his 83rd birthday. He was buried at Alta Vista Cemetery in Gainesville, GA.

From *American Battlefields* website

Devil's Den & Little Round Top: Then & Now

An Interview with Garry Adelman and Tim Smith

By [Timothy H. Smith](#)

In 2010, the Civil War Trust saved a 2 acre section of the Gettysburg battlefield - ground that is closely associated with Lt. Gen. James Longstreet's attack on the Union left on July 2, 1863. To learn more about this pivotal attack and the state of the battlefield today, the Trust turned to "Second Day" experts Garry Adelman and Tim Smith.

Civil War Trust: Much has been made about the fractious disagreement that James Longstreet and Robert E. Lee had about the offensive opportunities on July 2, 1863. What fueled this disagreement and did it have any material impact on the fighting to come that day?

Garry Adelman: Lee and Longstreet fundamentally disagreed about what was the best course of action after the battle of July 1. Longstreet still labored under the impression that the entire campaign was to be fought as a “tactical defensive” while Lee, given the Confederate success on the First Day, felt that the “aggressive” was in order. Longstreet suggested a very wide movement around the Union army to interpose the Confederates between Meade's Yankees and Washington, and later proposed a tighter movement around the Union Army. One of Longstreet's subordinates, John Bell Hood, favored a still tighter movement around the enemy left—one that would take his division of 7,000 men behind Little Round Top and into the Union rear.

Longstreet and Hood's objections did not change Robert E. Lee's orders for Longstreet to not only attack but to attack “up the Emmitsburg Road.” But interestingly, Hood, whose division attacked first and therefore the rest of Longstreet's force, attacked in a more easterly direction than ordered by Lee.

Therefore, what was ultimately implemented was something in between Lee's orders and Hood's desires.

CWT:When one looks at the rocky and broken terrain of Devil's Den and Little Round Top it's hard to imagine a more difficult location for an attack. Did the Confederates have a good sense of the terrain before them on July 2nd?

GA: Some Confederate scouts reported to have examined the ground around the Union left flank and reached the slopes or summit of Little Round Top before the fighting started on July 2nd. Whether the nature of the rugged terrain was reported to the Confederate high command, it did not change Lee's orders for the attack and that attack did not include plans for Confederate movements at Devil's Den or up the slopes of the Round Tops. The Confederates as ordered by Lee would not have traversed the Snyder, Sherfy and other properties, avoiding the most difficult terrain anyway so it's almost a non-issue. John Bell Hood later wrote that the Union position was so strong as to render it impregnable by Union troops simply rolling down loose stone sand boulders upon the hapless Confederates. This is among the reasons that Hood says he objected to attacking Little Round Top. But, by the time the attack truly developed, Hood was wounded and decisions were made and orders issued at the regimental and brigade level.

One of the most common complaints of the Confederate offensive plan versus the Union left is that the Confederate army could have/should have swung around the Union position at Little Round Top, thereby avoiding a difficult defensive position. What's your take on this argument?

GA: As mentioned above, there were various iterations of this plan. The wider swings were Longstreet's and the tighter swing was Hood's. Both suggestions were risky and in our opinion, flawed. The wider sweep around the Union army was full of uncertainty, would have taken substantial time, and would have to have been made without Lee's best cavalry units. The tighter swing, Hood's, was even riskier. Hood had 7,000 men and he proposed to detach from the rest of the army and cause trouble in the Union rear. Surely, he could have caused trouble, but then what? General Meade had already ordered his entire Fifth Corps of 10,000 men followed soon after by a similar number from his Sixth Corps. These two Union Corps were ordered to the left and to hold that position at all hazards and they approached the left in a manner that would have blocked Hood's path or worse--emerged directly upon Hood's flank.

Our take on these alternate plans is that both Hood and Longstreet advanced risky plans at Gettysburg and also buttressed the viability of these plans after Lee's death. As both Longstreet and Hood later found at Knoxville, Suffolk, [Franklin](#) and [Nashville](#), implementing plans as an army commander is a much different animal than doing so as a subordinate.

For so many modern visitors, their understanding of the fighting at Little Round Top on July 2nd is heavily molded by the 1993

movie "[Gettysburg](#)." How does that cinematic account match the true fighting on this section of the battlefield?

GA: The *Gettysburg* movie is based upon the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Killer Angels*. The problem in this case with *The Killer Angels*, and thus the movie is not so much with its being a novel and associated lack of factuality (and trust us, there is plenty) but the matter of focus. There were 118 general officers at the battle of Gettysburg and *The Killer Angels* focuses upon four. Of the more than 400 infantry regiments at Gettysburg, *The Killer Angels*, and therefore the movie, and to an even greater extent the Ken Burns PBS series focuses upon one--The 20th Maine and Joshua Chamberlain. Therefore, in the book and the two productions Little Round Top becomes the most important part of the story--all spend more time on this action than the entire First Day and the rest of the Second Day combined! Never mind that the fighting at the Devil's Den, the Wheatfield, the Peach Orchard and other places were larger and bloodier affairs than Little Round Top.

At least ten Union and five Confederate regiments took casualties on Little Round Top and some of these casualties were part of actions every bit as important as those on the far left flank of the Union army--the position of the 20th Maine. Most of the other Union regimental commanders on Little Round Top, however, were dead within one year. Therefore, who was left to tell the story of Little Round Top--dead officers or a great writer, a professor, a later Medal of Honor winner--Joshua Chamberlain? This is not to say that the 20th Maine's actions were not important. Rather it is to say that many other units on Little Round Top performed deeds just as important.

The book, movie and documentary also continued another unwarranted trend--that of elevating the military importance Little Round Top above the already-exalted position it deserves. I was actually so worked up about this issue that I wrote a book entitled, *The Myth of Little Round Top*, just to lay out the problems with the popular story of the fabled hill.

The region of the Gettysburg battlefield associated with the second day's fight is rich in Civil War photographic history. As part of your in-depth research of Civil War photography in this region what are some of the more interesting events and finds that you have come across?

GA: There are too many to discuss here! The main ones that come to mind, of course, are the key discoveries and research in William A. Frassanito's body of Gettysburg work. "Fraz" is the undisputed Dean of Civil War photographic research and his work on the Second Day's death studies at the Rose Farm and Slaughter Pen must stand out as some of the most important contributions to the understanding and use of Civil War photography--a field he pioneered, if not created. Other Second Day areas within his focus were Little Round Top, the Trostle farm, the Devil's Den, and the Wheatfield area.

But a cadre of other historians and enthusiasts, most of whom are [Center for Civil War Photography](#) members or board members, has taken up the torch, locating hundreds of additional views for more than twenty years. It is this ongoing work,

solving Gettysburg's photo mysteries, that captures our attention and helps to maintain our passion for the subject. We ourselves have found the locations of scores, if not hundreds, of Second Day views ranging in date from 1863 all the way into the 20th century. Avid Gettysburg collector and guide Sue Boardman has made significant contributions to the study. Last year, Tom Danning found the location of an 1867 stereoview which had supposedly been recorded at Devil's Den but was in fact at the Devil's Kitchen. His discovery transformed that image into the earliest known image of the Devil's Kitchen, by decades. Just last fall, Barry Martin discovered the location of a view near Big Round Top that had eluded many of us (and caused many historians to simply guess) for more than 15 years! Determining the location of even postwar views can significantly enhance our understanding of the battle and battlefield. And there are plenty of Gettysburg photo mysteries remaining and we always encourage people that it's not at all too late to get in the game. Just bring your favorite accounts and images out to historic sites and enjoy!

[Much ink has also been spilled in the debate over Maj. Gen. Daniel Sickles' actions on July 2, 1863. Why did Sickles move his Union Third Corps so far forward and was this movement at odds with Meade's orders?](#)

Tim Smith: In the years following the battle, Daniel Edgar Sickles, spent a large amount of time and effort to cloud the facts surrounding his forward movement. And today, the historic record provides no clear explanation for his actions on July 2nd. There are far too many historians that place credence in the value of his forward movement. Let us be clear. His movement was absolutely against orders, and it totally disrupted the plans of the Union Army commander that day. Sickles supporters often argue that his forward movement, forced Meade into creating a defense in depth, which ultimately slowed the Confederate attack and led to the Northern victory at Gettysburg. But, in fact, Sickles movement left Little Round Top unoccupied, and created a dangerous gap between the Union 2nd and 3rd Army Corps. In the end, it was not Sickles movement that slowed the Southerners, his men were routed and driven back at every point. It was the 20,000 reinforcements that General George Gordon Meade pumped into the area that forced the issue and ultimately defeated Longstreet's attack.

[Unlike many Civil War battlefields, Gettysburg, and particularly the region around Little Round Top and Devil's Den, became an instant tourist attraction. What was the tourist experience like in the early post-war years?](#)

TS: Unlike many areas, where Civil War battles were waged over non-descript farm fields, the region of Devil's Den and Little Round Top has its own distinctive appearance. One might argue, that had a battle not been fought there, these places would still be well known, and that there might be some kind of local park there today. The is evidence that the area was popular with locals a picnic destination even before the battle. When visitors arrived to tour the field after the war, the fact that these places were the scenes of heavy fighting only increased their interest.

[The Devil's Den has fascinated many a visitor over the years. How did this area get its name?](#)

TS: It is fascinating that we wrote a book on Devil's Den over ten years ago, and today, we are no closer to the answer of that question. There are still no reference of any sort that predate the battle that make mention of that place name. Since our book, several more early references have been discovered. Of course, that evidence is conflicting and confusing and it could be that the term Devil's Den actually was being used to refer to area of Little Round Top. And it may be that some local was using the reference in some form to describe an area of rocky ground south of Gettysburg. One thing is for sure, the reason that the term became popularized following the battle, and the reason that we refer to that particular group of rock as Devil's Den today, is historian John Bachelder. At some early point, following the battle, he became aware of the place name, and his usage of the name on his maps and in his lectures led to the terms popularity. Bachelder died in 1894 and a short time later the Gettysburg National Military Park Commission placed a cast iron plaque in front of those rocks with the words "Devil's Den," on it.

[The both of you have given numerous tours of the Devil's Den and Little Round Top. What are some of the more interesting, and lesser known, features that you show visitors?](#)

TS: I think many tourist are surprised to learn that there was heavy fighting at the den. While the battle action at Little Round Top has received a considerable amount of attention, especially in recent years, the action at Devil's Den has not. Over the years, so much attention given to the lore of the sharpshooter, or the eerie unnatural appearance of the rocks themselves, that sometimes the fierce fighting that occurred there on the afternoon of July 2, 1863 gets lost in the shuffle. Beyond that, visitors are fascinated to learn that Little Round Top and Devil's Den was once the scene of amusement parks, photographic studios, a restaurant and an electric railway. They are fascinated that carving of early visitors once covered the rocks and some are still visible today. Tourists are often surprised that the area was just as popular 100 years ago as it is today.

[Over the past yen years or so has the battlefield associated with Longstreet's July 2nd attack changed much? How would it compare to its 1863 state?](#)

TS: We first started giving tours of the Devil's Den to large groups almost twenty years ago. We would stand atop Houck's Ridge near the monument of the 99th Pennsylvania, and would discuss how the Confederate line of battle formed along Seminary Ridge and crossed open fields in their advance. As we discussed the battle, our groups would stare into the woods a few hundred yards to the west. And on many occasions we would point to those woods and make strong statements urging for the removal of the non historic growth particularly on that section of the field. So in some respects, we feel responsible for generating support for the parks efforts to restore that area of the field. And the National Park Service has taken a very aggressive approached in its efforts of restoration in recent

years, and much of the non historic woods have been removed. I think that many of the historians of the battle are greatly interesting the appearance of the field as it was in 1863, but it is not always an easy proposition to restore an area. The accounts of the soldiers are rarely of use in determining wood lines and photographic evidence does not exist for every portion of the field. The Warren map is particularly frustrating and confusing in its representation of rocks and trees. It is difficult, for example, to distinguish between a wood lot and an area of scrub or brush. For our own part we continue to study the evidence and help arm historians of the battle, and the National Park Service with the best understanding of the 1863 appearance of the field as possible, and assist in their restoration efforts in any way we can.

Looking into the future what sort of battlefield developments or improvements would you like to see at the Gettysburg battlefield?

TS: Just in our lifetime there have been vast and sweeping changes to the battlefield itself and the way the field has been interpreted. And though much is positive not all of the changes are good. There continues to be commercial and developmental pressures placed upon the park itself and the areas just outside of its boundaries. There is still much valuable land, that is not included within the Gettysburg National Military Park boundary. Awareness and education is very important. One of the most often used expressions by those wishing who destroy historic ground is "we didn't know." Wayside exhibits need to be placed at sites of historic interest, so people are aware that some event occurred there. This in itself would act as a deterrent against development. Personally, I would like to see the area of every skirmish during the Gettysburg Campaign marked and preserved. Make no mistake, if we don't preserve these areas, they will be developed.

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Within the park itself, one of my pet ideas, is to have marked the site of every farm house or barn on the battlefield. The structure that no longer stand could be indicated by a large iron framework outlining the building. You could look through them, but would know and understand a building of some proportion was there. We have the knowledge of the building and know where they stood. Along with the restoration of orchards, wood lots and farm lanes, a project such as this could add immeasurably to the 1863 appearance of the field.

Learn More: ["Devil's Den: A History and Guide" by Tim Smith and Garry Adelman is available from our Civil War Trust-Amazon Bookstore](#)

Timothy H. Smith is a longtime Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg and the author of several Gettysburg books and articles.

Garry Adelman serves as the director of History and Education at the American Battlefield Trust.

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