



THE OLD LINER NEWSLETTER



Congress of Civil War Roundtables 2023 SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE AUGUST 25-26-27

GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
The theme for the 2023 Sustainability Conference is MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION & RETENTION. It is widely known that Civil War Round Tables have been experiencing a member contraction during the past decade. As round table members age out, there is seemingly few younger members to take their place. Moreover, that phenomenon is also felt at the leadership level.

This year, the CWRT Congress will focus on younger members, while retaining current, active members. More information on these topics will be forthcoming as planning unfolds.

For more information:
<https://www.cwrtcongress.org/2023.html>
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Gettysburg Bound! American Battlefield Trust Announces 2024 Annual Conference Location Gathering expected to draw some 400 Trust members to the iconic battlefield community

By Mary Koik and Melissa Winn, ABT
May 8, 2023
(Gettysburg, Pa.) —The clock is ticking: in less than one year, hundreds of American Battlefield Trust members will descend on Gettysburg for the national preservation organization’s 2024 Annual Conference. From April 25–28, they’ll enjoy tours, talks and other special gatherings at an event

designed to showcase both the battlefield and the community that surrounds it. “More than half our membership tell us that Gettysburg is their favorite battlefield to visit, and we couldn’t agree more,” said Trust President David Duncan, surrounded by many of the local partner organizations who will help make the event unforgettable. “We’re thrilled to bring members to Gettysburg and show them everything that we and our allies have achieved together. There’s no more fitting gathering place for us to pursue our collective mission of saving these sacred spaces and the legacy they preserve.”



From left: Back Row: Peter Carmichael, Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College; Pete Miele, Executive Director, Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center; Timothy Smith, Director of Education, Adams County Historical Society; Karl Pietrzak, President and CEO, Destination Gettysburg; Jill Sellers, President and CEO, Main Street Gettysburg; Lindsay Methlie, Director of Sales, Destination Gettysburg; Carl Whitehall, Vice President, Destination Gettysburg; Front Row, From Left: Wayne Motts, President and CEO, Gettysburg Foundation; Steven Sims, Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park; David Duncan, President, American Battlefield Trust; Andrew Dalton, Executive Director, Adams County Historical Society; Stephanie Lightner, Executive Director, Gettysburg Heritage Center (Melissa Winn)



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Over the past two decades, the Trust has saved just shy of 1,240 acres associated with all three days of the Battle of Gettysburg. Members have invested millions in land acquisition, landscape restoration and the development of groundbreaking interpretive technologies to bring the battlefield to life.

A pre-registration mechanism for the event is now live. This early indication of interest will ensure first notice of tour options and other key milestones in the countdown, as well as provide a way to suggest personal favorites and other can't miss spots for agendas. The Trust is committed to working with a variety of local businesses and vendors to help provide lodging, transportation, food and other elements.

Speaking from the group's iconic property at Lee's Headquarters, Duncan noted, "Because 353 days is too long for some people to wait for access to the places they've helped preserve and restore, I'm also proud to announce a new virtual tour of this deeply significant building. I hope it serves both to whet the appetite to come here in person, and to help students of history receive a new type of glimpse into the past."

The American Battlefield Trust is dedicated to preserving America's hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about what happened there and why it matters today. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization has protected more than 56,000 acres associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War across 155 sites in 25 states. Learn more at www.battlefields.org.

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JOE HOOKER WAS AN INEFFECTUAL GENERAL, BUT DOES HE DESERVE CREDIT FOR TRANSFORMING THE UNION CAVALRY?

Hooker had his shortcomings, but what he did in revitalizing his army's cavalry corps was monumental.

By D. Scott Hartwig, History.Net 5/8/2023



Alfred Pleasonton (right), a brigadier general at this point, poses with one of his favorites, George Custer, who was quick to reward the general's faith in him. (Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, National Park Service)

The Army of the Potomac's cavalry received a much-needed reorganization when Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker assumed command of the Union's largest army in the winter of 1863, transforming from a collection of mounted brigades to a formal Cavalry Corps. Most important perhaps, Hooker infused his horsemen with a new mission. Although they would continue fulfilling the traditional cavalry roles of scouting, picketing, headquarters security, and escort duty, they were now to serve primarily as an offensive weapon—much like J.E.B. Stuart's vaunted troopers did in the Army of Northern Virginia.

During the Chancellorsville Campaign, Union cavalry performed better in defeat than it had in any previous campaign, but Hooker was disappointed in the leadership



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of some of its commanders, specifically corps commander George Stoneman and 2nd Division commander William A. Averell. Both lost their jobs in a further reorganization that followed Chancellorsville.

The Cavalry Corps' new commander would be Maj. Gen. Alfred Pleasonton, known as a notorious self-promoter and miserable intelligence officer but someone Hooker believed might put more fire into his troopers. Pleasonton did. In the early stages of the Gettysburg Campaign in June 1863, the Federal horsemen took the fight to the Rebel cavalry at Brandy Station, Va., and in a subsequent series of sharply fought engagements at Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville in central Virginia.

Nevertheless, though his men had fought well, Pleasonton was eager to find positions for his more aggressive subordinates. After Maj. Gen. Julius Stahel's division was sent as reinforcements from the defenses of Washington, D.C., in late June, Pleasonton convinced the Army of the Potomac's new commander, Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, to allow him to replace Stahel and his brigade commanders with officers of his own choice.

Pleasonton handed Stahel's command to the recklessly aggressive Brig. Gen. H. Judson Kilpatrick, and to fill the two brigade slots he received approval to jump two junior officers—Elon Farnsworth and George Armstrong Custer—to brigadier general. Both men had been staff officers for Pleasonton and were favorites of the general.

Also elevated was Captain Wesley Merritt, who was handed a brigade in the cavalry's

1st Division. All were young, bright, and aggressive officers.

Farnsworth never had a chance to prove himself, for he was killed July 3 at Gettysburg in a foolish attack demanded by Kilpatrick. Merritt proved an excellent soldier, but it is Custer we remember best. Because of the Little Big Horn showdown that lay in his future, Custer is remembered as a brash, ambitious, and particularly reckless officer. He was indeed brash and ambitious. His performance during the Gettysburg Campaign, however, showed an officer who understood modern cavalry tactics and applied them appropriately while displaying solid leadership commanding volunteers.

The 23-year-old Custer was, in fact, far more prudent than popular history would have us think. He asked for and received command of a brigade of four Michigan regiments: the 1st, 5th, 6th, and 7th. When he arrived in the camps of his brigade in the rain on June 29, Custer's appearance instantly attracted attention—as he intended. A staff officer described him as “one of the funniest looking beings you ever saw and looks like a circus rider gone mad! He wears a huzzar jacket and tight trousers, of faded black velvet trimmed with tarnished gold lace.” Not to mention a red cravat.

Ego partly drove Custer's uniform style, but it also reflected his understanding of volunteer soldiers. They would recognize him instantly on the march or, more importantly, on the battlefield, where he intended to provide them leadership that would inspire them to risk their lives and take the fight to the enemy.



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The day after assuming command of his brigade, June 30, Custer's command engaged J.E.B. Stuart's Confederate horsemen for the first time at Hanover, Pa. Instead of charging headlong into the fray, heedless of casualties, Custer demonstrated tactical competence, employing his superior firepower—the 5th and 6th Michigan carried Spencer repeaters—by dismounting his troopers and supporting them with attached horse artillery. The result was a check to the Rebel horsemen, who departed to find an easier route to reach Lee's main army.



The towering monument to George Custer's Michigan Brigade in East Cavalry Field, site of its Day 3 Gettysburg laurels. (Noel Kline)

On July 2, Custer's Michiganders encountered Brig. Gen. Wade Hampton's veteran brigade near the small village of Hunterstown, Pa., several miles northeast of

Gettysburg. When the officer leading Custer's van emerged from the village, he encountered open ground extending west for several hundred yards. Standing partway across these open fields were two farms around which a small rearguard of Hampton's Brigade had halted to keep the enemy at a distance from the main body.

Uncertain what this small body of enemy cavalry represented, Custer dismounted several companies of the 6th Michigan and unlimbered his horse artillery to provide covering fire. But to disperse the Confederate horsemen, he ordered Company A of the 6th to conduct a mounted charge. Then, as the company readied for its advance, Custer drew his saber and motioned for his staff to stay back before riding out in front of the troopers. With what would be described as a "careless laughing remark," he declared, "I'll lead you this time boys. Come on!"

The charge struck the Confederates hard. Reinforcements from Hampton's Brigade counterattacked, and a wild melee ensued. Custer's horse was killed beneath him, and he was almost ridden down and killed by a Southern trooper—his life saved by his orderly, who dropped the assailant with a well-aimed shot.

Custer's prudence in establishing an additional line of fire was rewarded when his dismounted troopers and horse artillery held off Hampton's counterattack. Though Custer had taken an unnecessary risk in leading the charge, the calculated risk paid dividends in increased confidence and respect for the young general's leadership.



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A day later, Custer made even more of a mark with his men and the army in the much larger cavalry action three miles east of Gettysburg around the John Rummel Farm. Again, Custer displayed a firm grasp of cavalry tactics, skillfully using his troopers in both dismounted and mounted roles, and establishing his horse artillery as a base of fire. And again, Custer deliberately placed himself in harm's way by leading charges by the 7th and then the 1st Michigan Cavalry. In both charges he rode out in front of his men shouting, "Come on, you Wolverines!" The result was a block of Stuart's efforts to disrupt the Army of the Potomac's communication lines.

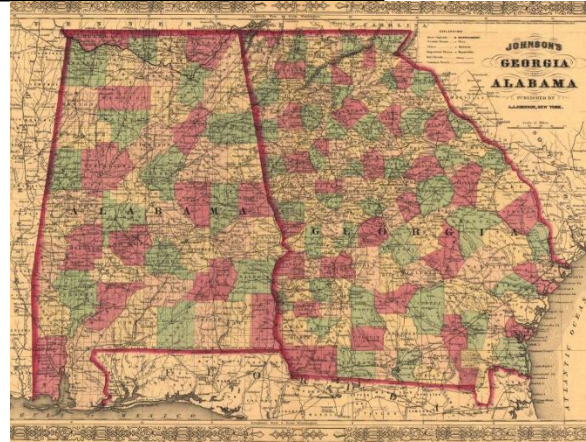
Custer had accomplished precisely what Pleasonton had sought in advancing these young men to brigade command. It elevated the Union cavalry to the level of J.E.B. Stuart's. That process had actually begun a few weeks earlier at Brandy Station, but now the Army of the Potomac's horsemen would be an effective fighting arm. The attrition of two more years of war meant that the men in blue would, however, gradually gain superiority.

Scott Hartwig writes from the crossroads of Gettysburg.

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The Civil War Maps of Henry Delamar Clayton

Robert S. Davis, April 28, 2023,
blueandgrayeducation.org



Alvin Jewett Johnson's map of Georgia and Alabama from 1863 | alabamamaps.us.edu

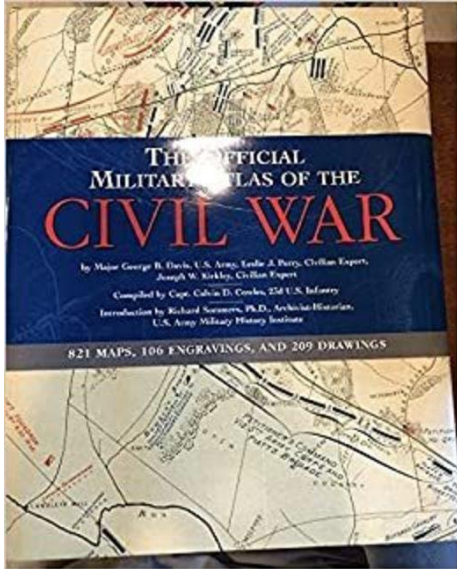
On the eve of the Civil War, despite two centuries of European settlement, the United States was little mapped beyond the roads used as postal routes and railroad lines. During the war's early months, even armies on their own ground lacked credible information on where they were and both armies, sometimes, marched blindly through uncultivated wildernesses using uncharted wagon paths to collide at obscure creeks, isolated communities, and rural churches.

The conflict of 1861-1865 radically changed that situation. Engineers of the Union and Confederate armies compiled detailed maps to include almost every named locality, no matter how obscure, to the level of gold mines, Indian ruins, and hundreds of owners of individual farms.

The most comprehensive collection of this information from the war became George B. Davis, et al., *The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War* (1891-1895). This work, however, sometimes identifies farms and other places not at those locations until after the war.



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The Clayton maps show the terrain of the Atlanta Campaign as the Confederate command knew it. Today, this information gives researchers a view of communities in Georgia and parts of Tennessee.

The Clayton maps are today in the Civil War maps of Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee, [ca.1862]-[ca.1864], D-624 through D-628, CB-75, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery. These maps are accessed online from Alabama Historical Map Archive:

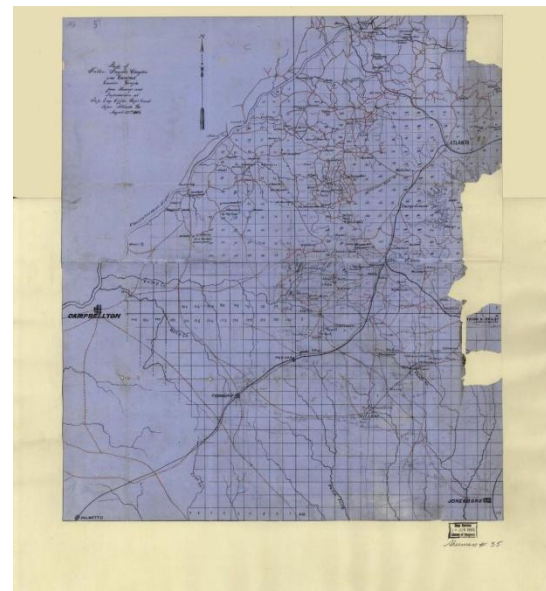
<http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/>.

Largely settled only after 1838, northwest Georgia was left with relatively few people thanks to lack of adequate transportation and the ownership of vast tracts of the local land by absentee land speculators. Without detailed maps, information obtained from locals, some of whom opposed the Confederacy, proved misleading or nearly useless. Confederate general Joseph Wheeler's Cavalry Corps prepared some maps of northwest Georgia between May and July 1864 with the final cartography carried out chiefly by assistant engineers John M. Stewart and John Stuart Tyner. Maps by Wheeler's Engineer's Office had the reputation of being the best produced in the Confederacy, but in fact they often lacked important details.

Originals of the Clayton maps have survived in the National Archives and Records Administration and digitized in limited image quality on the website Civil War Maps, American Memory, Library of Congress:

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/civil_war_maps/.

Bob Bradley, curator of artifacts at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, located some mostly forgotten Confederate maps of northwest Georgia and neighboring Tennessee. While preparing a Civil War exhibit, he found maps bundled in a leather belt pouch that had belonged to Confederate general Henry DeLamar Clayton of Barbour County, Alabama.



Maps of parts of Fulton, Fayette, Clayton, and Campbell counties, Georgia | LOC

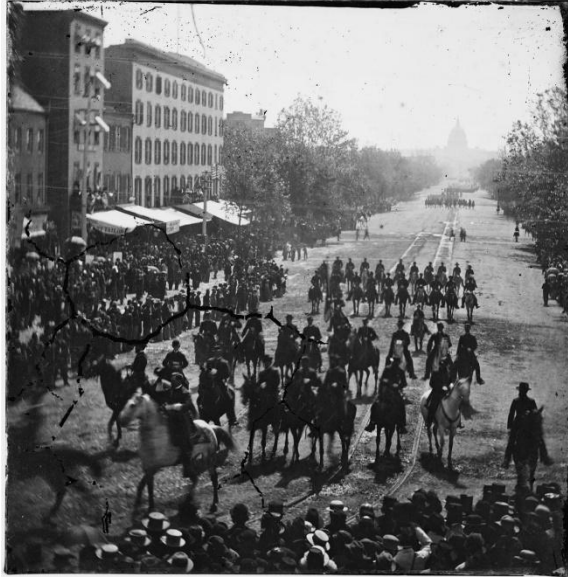


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The Other Grand Reviews

Robert Dunkerly, May 1, 2023,
blueandgrayeducation.org



U.S. Army soldiers participate in the Grand Review of the Armies in Washington, D.C., on May 23-24, 1865. But few know they marched in Richmond, Virginia, first. | LOC

It is well known that Union armies held Grand Reviews in Washington, D.C., at the end of the Civil War, but did you know that they did so in Richmond as well?

Richmond had been in Union hands since April 3, 1865, when Federal troops occupied the city. Following the surrenders at Appomattox and Bennet Place over the next few weeks, various U.S. forces marched toward Washington, D.C., by way of Richmond. There were three reviews of the victorious troops in Richmond that May. In order, these were the Army of the Potomac (the 2nd and 5th Corps), the Army of the Tennessee and the Army of Georgia, and the Army of the Potomac (6th Corps).
Army of the Potomac

The 2nd and 5th Corps of the Army of the Potomac came through first on their way toward Washington. The 9th Corps was still in the southside of Virginia, and the 6th Corps had moved toward Danville with the intention of joining Union troops in North Carolina to face the Army of Tennessee. Once Johnston surrendered that army, the 6th Corps was free to turn around and march north, following the 2nd and 5th Corps. On May 6, 1865, the 2nd and 5th Corps marched through the former Confederate capital. It was a warm day, and the march began at 7 a.m. and lasted until 3 p.m. Generals Meade and Halleck reviewed the troops in front of City Hall. The 5th Corps led the way, followed by the 2nd. One Union officer wrote that “cheers could be heard all along as they passed through the streets.”

S. Millett Thompson of the 13th New Hampshire, standing along the route, noted, “Many of these troops having no arms march with old brooms, and hundreds of little broom-corn clothes brushes are stuck in the muzzles of muskets and borne aloft—the broom the emblem of a clean sweep.” Armies of the Tennessee and Georgia
On May 11, 1865, the Union Army of the Tennessee marched through the capital, followed by the Union Army of Georgia the next day. These were both commanded by Gen. William T. Sherman, and had completed their campaign through the Carolinas. One soldier noted, “On the morning of the 11th we crossed the pontoon-bridge at Richmond, marched through that city, and out on the Hanover Court-House road.”

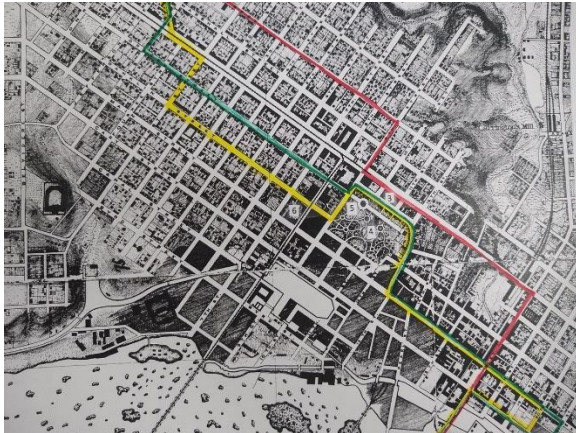
Another wrote, “The arrival of Sherman’s army, which was looked forward to with



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much interest, took place on the 12th of May... [I]t was two days in passing through Richmond, and at no time was there any lack of interest in viewing it. It presented a less trim and strictly military appearance than the Army of the Potomac, but moved along with a wide step and an easy, swinging gait as if marching was a real pleasure.”



1865 map of Richmond showing the review routes Yellow depicts Army of the Potomac (2nd and 6th Corps) on May 6; Green is Army of the Tennessee and Army of Georgia on May 11-12; and Red is 6th Corps on May 23 | map courtesy of author

Here is the route taken by Sherman’s veterans on May 11 and 12: From Manchester, they crossed a pontoon bridge to 17th Street, turned onto Cary Street, marched to 21st Street, turned onto Main Street, turned onto 13th Street, marched onto Capitol Street, turned onto Grace Street, then to Adams Street, and finally onto Brook Road. Along the way, they passed landmarks like Libby Prison and Capitol Square. Libby was of immense interest to many, having heard about the infamous prison. On Capitol Square were seen the massive George Washington Monument and the state capitol, which

hosted the Confederate Congress. For all the troops, it must have been a profound experience, marching through the city they had labored so long to capture.

Occupation troops from the 24th Corps who were stationed in the city lined the streets to salute Sherman’s troops as they marched by. Gen. Henry Halleck sat at a reviewing stand near the Washington Monument on Capitol Square. As the troops marched, their flags were unfurled and bands played. The armies under Sherman continued north, passing by the battlefields around Fredericksburg. They participated in the Grand Review in Washington, D.C., on May 24.

Map Key:

1865 map of Richmond showing the review routes:

Yellow: Army of the Potomac (2nd and 6th Corps)- May 6

Green: Army of the Tennessee and Army of Georgia- May 11-12

Red: 6th Corps- May 23

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Commentary

Through a visitor’s eyes: What you say when you fly confederate colors in Pa. |

North of the Mason-Dixon, it’s more difficult to claim ‘Heritage, not Hate,’ a visiting military officer observed

By Col. Charles D. Allen, Pennsylvania Capital Star, MAY 17, 2023 6:30 AM



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(Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images/The Minnesota Reformer).

This year marks my twentieth as a member of the U.S. Army War College faculty and resident of the greater Carlisle community. Each year we receive a new cohort of War College officer-students attending the resident education program. They come from diverse backgrounds and locations from across the nation.

In addition, we have about 80 International Fellows from more than 70 countries. We encourage both U.S. students and International Fellows to explore the America outside of the perimeter of Carlisle Barracks. In doing so, we hope to connect them with our society and the nation we serve. This is part of the Carlisle experience we tout as an important part of their year with us.

In 2023, it seems that timing is everything. Our U.S. military continues to identify, assess, and remove confederate symbology from its posts, camps, and stations. The Department of Defense has commenced redesignation of installations named for officers of Civil War secessionist states.

On April 27, the first post was redesignated as Fort Gregg-Adams to honor two African American Army officers. The actions to remove iconography and rename posts

undoubtedly have resulted in informal discussions among our War College students and faculty.

I wondered to what extent similar conversations were happening within our Carlisle Borough.

In November 2021, I participated in the renaming ceremony at Dickinson College for some of its buildings and for an entrance gate to the campus, for which I represented the U.S. military in our community for Civil War veteran Noah Pinkney and his wife Carrie.

With my wife's encouragement, I recently attended the first Friendship Dinner hosted by Moving Circles at our YWCA. The theme of the dinner gathering was to explore the meaning of community and to assess what kind of community we have in Carlisle, and then perhaps commit to creating the kind of community we think we should have.

Recently, one of our War College students sat down in a local establishment to enjoy a cup of coffee in the borough while watching the foot and vehicle traffic passing through the town square.

What the student observed caused him concern and generated the email message below. As you read the text of the email, consider the impression our town made on one 'outsider.'

Email Subject: Race Today, Confederate Sympathies in PA

Chuck:

A large Confederate flag caught my eye as it passed by staked to the bed of a Chevy El Camino. The colors streamed from the rear



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window past the rear wheels and rose a couple of feet above the roof. It stood with a sick pride that reminded me to ask a question that has struck me several times this year.

What is the status of race relations in Carlisle, and to what extent do rebel sympathies spill into the public discussion? I witnessed a dark blue F-150 parked near my apartment with a confederate front plate throughout the year. I have seen a white jeep in town with the same. A home on Petersburg Road I pass by every Sunday has a giant flag in the front yard. I have also seen a red Jeep with a confederate bumper sticker, and during some of the auto events, I've seen several more.

This is a complete anathema to me as we do not see this in my southern home state and would rarely see anything like this except in particular areas of my state. I do not have a scientific assessment of data to compare, but I expected no such appearances in Pennsylvania. Granted, my social and professional network back home may drive my experience, but I notice the difference. It just seems unusual to see the rebel stars and bars north of the Mason-Dixon Line. You have to embrace the confederate attributes to publicize its sympathies up here; it's more difficult to claim "Heritage, not Hate."

No immediate response is required, and I'm open to meeting in person whenever it's convenient for you.

I met with this student for about 30 minutes the following morning and we had a candid conversation. If you are interested in continuing the conversation about our

Carlisle community, I invite you to check out <https://www.movingcircles.org/>.

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Ancestors of Two Twentieth-century Hollywood Influencers Clash in Antietam's Cornfield

Kevin Pawlak, April 21, 2023,
blueandgrayeducation.org



Margaret Mitchell in 1941 | LOC



Jimmy Stewart in 1948 | public domain

Some of the most popular movies portraying the Civil War appeared on the big screen in the era before and during the centennial anniversary of the conflict. Two of those films include *Gone with the Wind* (1939), based on Margaret Mitchell's novel published three years earlier, and *Shenandoah* (1965), starring Jimmy Stewart. Both films portray Southern families caught up in the Civil War and how the war immensely affected their lives. It should come as no surprise that two of the leading

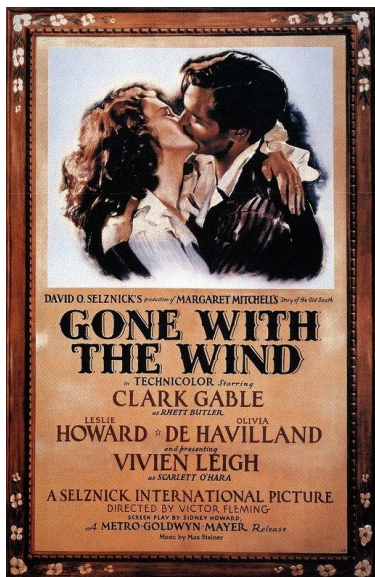


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hands in these films, which shaped people's perceptions of the Civil War for years to come, likely drew inspiration from their grandfathers, both of whom served in the war.

While filmmakers adapted Mitchell's literature into a film, Mitchell's fingerprints are all over the screen version of *Gone with the Wind*. She grew up hearing and feeling war stories from her grandfather, Sgt. Russell Crawford Mitchell of the 1st Texas Infantry. Russell was born and raised in Georgia but moved to Texas a couple of years prior to the outbreak of hostilities. Mitchell supported secession and raised a company of Texans to fight in the war. His company voted to enter the scene of war in Missouri. Mitchell, however, "believed the big fighting would be" in Virginia and so resigned his command and joined Company I of the 1st Texas.



Film poster for Gone With the Wind | public domain



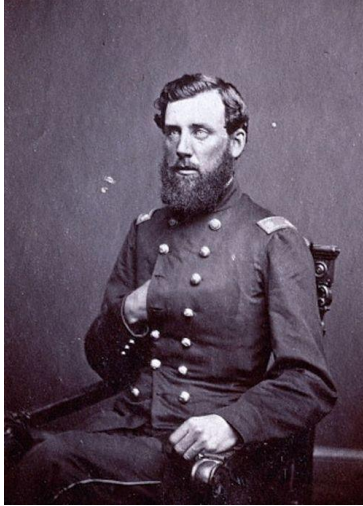
Film poster for Shenandoah | public domain

Actor Jimmy Stewart's grandfather, Samuel McCartney Jackson, grew up in Apollo, Pennsylvania, and joined the state militia as 12-year-old drummer boy. In August 1861, Jackson was commissioned Captain of Company G, 11th Pennsylvania Reserves. He quickly rose to lieutenant colonel of the regiment by October and commanded the 11th Pennsylvania Reserves at Antietam.

In the early morning's action of September 17, 1862, the 1st Texas Infantry plunged headlong unsupported into David Miller's 24-acre cornfield. When Sergeant Mitchell and the Texans approached within 30 yards of the cornfield's northern fence, a volley ripped into their ranks. That sheet of fire came mostly from the Federals directly in their front, Pennsylvanians led by Samuel M. Jackson. Those Pennsylvanians, resting their rifles on the fence rails in their front, decimated the 1st Texas, which staggered to the rear having suffered over 80 percent casualties.



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Lt. Col. Samuel McCartney Jackson | public domain

after the death of his grandfather, but it is possible he grew up listening to the stories of Samuel M. Jackson during the Civil War.

It is interesting to think that Civil War ancestors—Margaret Mitchell's as she wrote her book that soon became a national hit on the silver screen; and Jimmy Stewart's, when he portrayed Charlie Anderson in *Shenandoah*—influenced their grandchildren in their roles of shaping popular perceptions of the Civil War.

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One of those Texas casualties was Russell Mitchell, "his skull broken in by two minie balls," recalled his granddaughter Margaret. Mitchell was carried from the field and taken to an aid station near the Dunker Church. There, a surgeon examined his grisly wound and "declared there wasn't any use in wasting time on him when he would only live a few hours." However, Sergeant Mitchell incredibly survived. Margaret Mitchell remembered visiting her grandfather years later. During these family visits, "his children and grandchildren loved to put their fingers in the depressions in his skull." Sergeant Mitchell lived over four decades after receiving his supposedly mortal wound and died in Atlanta in 1905.

On the other side of the field, Lieutenant Colonel Jackson survived. In his diary entry of September 17, 1862, Jackson succinctly penned, "Terrific fighting... Our little Regiment badly cut up." After the war, Jackson became a member of Pennsylvania's legislature and state senate. He died not long after Sergeant Mitchell, breathing his last in 1906. Jimmy Stewart was born two years