

# The Advance



## Spring 2018

The Second NJ Brigade is a 501c non profit organization. The board meets once a month and is represented by members of all the Impressions. The Executive board are as follows: President Mike Milling, Vice President Robert Bowell, Treasurer Lin Kaufer, Secretary Abby Belcastro.

## WORDS FROM THE EXITING EDITOR

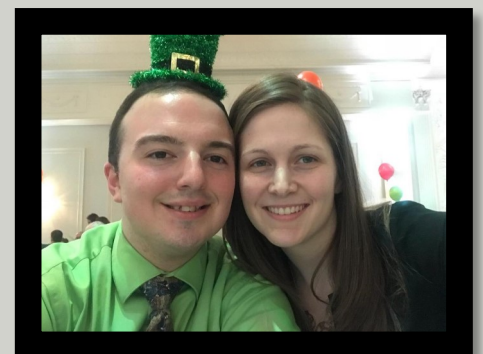
Dear Brigade,

It has been my pleasure to be one of the many people to produce this wonderful publication. In my time as editor we sold somethings, said goodbye to cherished family, and shared some happy memories. I would like to highlight some of the happy memories that recently passed and the ones soon to come. The Brigade will celebrate 3 blessed unions in 2018. Paul and Julianne Egbert wed earlier in March. Their picture graces the cover this month. Matt Belcastro, and Abigail Eckert will wed in April, and Don Lopuzzo, and Melissa Ayers will wed in July. Lets wish them all the happiness in the world! Due to my move to Brigade President I will now hand over the reins to Abigail Eckert our new Board Secretary, and Civilian Coordinator. I know she will do a phenomenal job moving with the publication!

Your Obedient Servant!

Clr Sgt. Mike Milling

Exiting Editor of the Advance



# INFANTRY SCHEDULE

Month	Date	Event	Location
March	10	St. Pat's Parade	Morristown NJ
	24	Col. Francine Grave Memorial	Laurel Hill Cemetery
April	21-22	Training Camp	Morristown NJ
	28-29	Neshaminy	Ben Salem NJ
May			
	20	Emmell Grave Dedication	Morristown NJ
	23	Markham School	Little Silver NJ
	28	Memorial Day Parade	Jamesburg NJ
June	1-3	Allaire St Park	Allaire NJ
	9-10	Speedwell Village/Juneteenth Event	Morristown NJ
	30	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Parade	Randolph NJ
July	5-8	155 <sup>th</sup> Gettysburg	Gettysburg Pa
August	4	Brigade Picnic	Succasunna NJ
	18	Morris Canal Day	Wharton NJ
September	15-16	Cold Spring Village	Cape May NJ
	29	Lacy Apple Festival	Lacey NJ
October	13-14	Allentown	Allentown NJ
November	3-4	Barnegat Encampment	Barnegat Twp NJ
	11	Veterans Day Parade	NYC NY
	17	Remembrance Day	Gettysburg PA
December	1-2	Speedwell Christmas	Morristown NJ



# ARTILLERY SCHEDULE

Date	Event
January	
28	Arty meeting
March	
10	Seaside Parade
April	
7	Cannon Maintenance
28-29	Neshaminy, Bensalem, PA
May	
23	Markham School, Little Silver
19-20	New Market
26	American Legion, Wharton, NJ
28	Memorial Day Parade Jamesburg, NJ - <b>MAX EFFORT</b>
June	
2-3	Allaire
6	Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School
9-10	Speedwell Village, Morristown, NJ
22-24	Dehli, NY
30	Randolph Parade
July	
5-8	Gettysburg
August	
September	
1-2	Museum Village, Monroe, NY (40th)
16-17	Cold Springs
October	
13-14	Allentown, NJ
November	
3-4	Barnegat Encampment
18	Remembrance Day Gettysburg, PA
December	
1-2	Speedwell Xmas



# MORRIS COUNTY ST, PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Captain and First Sergeant Belcastro,

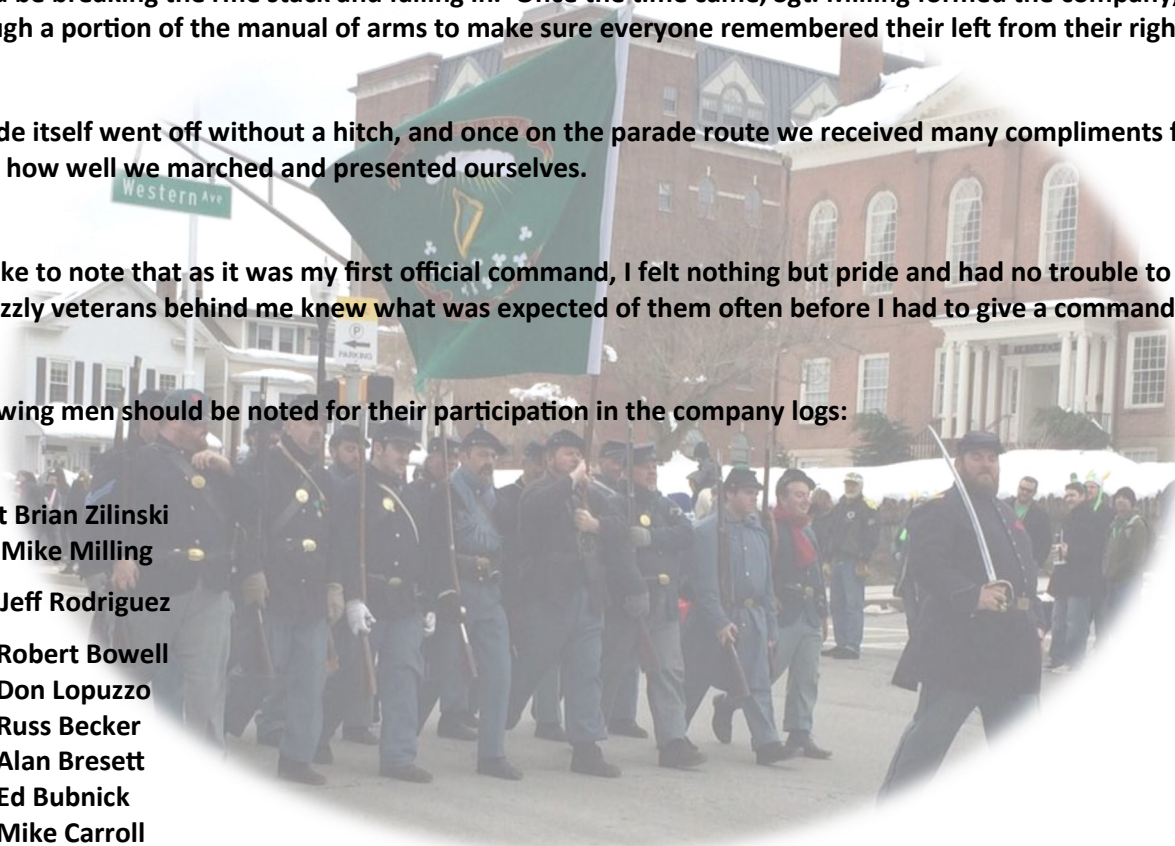
I would like to submit an after action report for the Morristown Patrick's Day Parade of March 10th. Despite trouble with the initial meet up (the high school parking lot was full by 1030 AM) we were able to make it up to the muster point in a timely fashion and had no trouble locating our position of march.

The men were in good spirits and eager to get out after a long winter and stretch their legs, often asking me when we would be breaking the rifle stack and falling in. Once the time came, Sgt. Milling formed the company, and we ran through a portion of the manual of arms to make sure everyone remembered their left from their right.

The parade itself went off without a hitch, and once on the parade route we received many compliments from spectators on how well we marched and presented ourselves.

I would like to note that as it was my first official command, I felt nothing but pride and had no trouble to deal with as the grizzly veterans behind me knew what was expected of them often before I had to give a command.

The following men should be noted for their participation in the company logs:



Bvt 1st/Lt Brian Zilinski  
 Sgt. Mike Milling  
 Corp. Jeff Rodriguez  
 Pvt. Robert Bowell  
 Pvt. Don Lopuzzo  
 Pvt. Russ Becker  
 Pvt. Alan Bresett  
 Pvt. Ed Bubnick  
 Pvt. Mike Carroll  
 Pvt. Amery Vasso  
 Pvt. Matt Dignam  
 Pvt. Ronald Syme  
 Pvt. George Cavalone (Flag Bearer)  
 Pvt. Randy Andrese  
 Pvt. Ronald Bauer

I would also like to thank our special guest Pvt. Charles Clayton of the 2nd RI Co. B for marching with us, and Erin Milling representing our civilians.

Respectfully,

Brv. Lt. Zilinski

# Reporting from Gettysburg

By Bruce Form

## ***ESCAPED POW***

### ***SURRENDERS IN BROOKLYN***

**New York (AP) – A blonde, heavy set man,  
dressed in bedraggled, muddy clothing, staggered  
into a Brooklyn candy store (6923 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.)  
of Louis Dvorkin Thursday and said in a  
hoarse voice:  
“Cop. Get cop.”  
Dvorkin called police, who identified the  
man as Wilhelm Schmidt, escaped German  
prisoner of war from a camp at Gettysburg, Pa.  
Tired and hungry, Schmidt was turned over to  
the FBI.\***

\* Text republished from *The Gettysburg Star and Sentinel*,

October 27, 1945

Prisoner of war captured in Brooklyn? One may think that he escaped from Elmira Prison in New York, seeing as most of the Confederate prisoners went from Gettysburg up that way for safekeeping after the July 1-3, 1863 battle. Well that fact may be true. However, this escaped prisoner actually escaped one of the several World War II Prisoner of War (POW) Camps located in the Gettysburg and Adams County, Pennsylvania area.

On June 17, 1944, an article in *The Gettysburg Star and Sentinel* started, “Work Camp Is Being Built by Prisoners.” It went on to state that German war prisoners from Camp George G. Meade, Maryland, under guard of the US Army troops, were engaged in work on the prison camp to be established just outside the borough limits along the Emmitsburg Road. The 50 workers from Camp Meade proceeded in clearing the way for poles to be placed for the stockade to surround the camp, clearing space for concrete floors for a kitchen and mess area and other buildings needed to house future POWs. This area in which they worked was previously occupied by U.S. Army troops in 1938.

According to the same article, “The military reservation which will house the prisoners is bounded on the east by the Emmitsburg Road, on the south by the railroad line and the Earl Waybright





An interesting note on the two escapees in this incident: according to Major Thomas' daughter, in a talk given to Adams County High School students in 1991, the two prisoners escaped through the drainage tube and made their way through the park (Gettysburg National Military Park). They wanted to make their way to the coast to get a ship back to Germany. Another account reported that the POWs were headed to Atlantic City, what they believed was a major east coast port. From there they hoped to somehow gain passage on a neutral country ship and make their way back to Germany.

The two POWs were captured eight days later, five miles southwest of York, PA. Interestingly, an article in *The Gettysburg Compiler*, dated July 15, 1944, stated "The FBI said last week that the prisoners are not guilty of any crime under international law and will not be subject to punishment from escaping here."

The question still remains, *why have a POW Camp in Gettysburg?* Information on the reasons why first appeared in the May 13, 1944 edition of the *Gettysburg Compiler* in the article entitled, "War Prisoners May Work Here." In brief, the article talked about a meeting of twenty-five Adams and York County canners who met in Hanover, PA, with the State Rural Industries Supervisor and other officials to complete plans for securing "workers from outside the country" to help in the canneries during the forthcoming harvest season. Army officials also attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of securing war prisoner help in the two counties. Prominently represented were corporate representatives of the Knouse Corporation and the C.

H. Musselman Company.

Thus, the idea was born and the process for getting POW help began. At that point in time no one knew exactly where this new labor force would be housed. But this was just the beginning. More POWs were on their way. As time marched on the need for more laborers and places to house them increased. At first, POWs were temporarily housed in the Armory on West Confederate Avenue. With an additional site needed the POWs were now housed in what was once Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp NR-2, "Camp Sharpe," located in McMillan Woods.

Gettysburg was not unique in having POW Camps or even POW workers. In most cases, those workers were transported from their respective camps to the work site. In the Gettysburg POW's case, they went to local canneries or on farms to harvest. Most POWs were paid for their work. For each Gettysburg POW worker, companies paid \$1.00 an hour (approximately \$14.00 today). Ten cents of that dollar (approximately \$1.40 today) went to the POW worker. The remaining 90 cents went to the federal government to pay for the POW's food, maintenance, etc. According to Major Thomas' daughter Jean in her talk, the camp at Gettysburg profited \$138,000.

On August 12, 1944, the *Gettysburg Compiler* published the following article under the title, "More Prisoners of War Expected Here This Month:"

"The Third Service Command at Baltimore, has announced that the prisoner of war camp here (Gettysburg) will be increased to 500 by September 1. Captain Laurence Thomas, Commander of the local camp, said he had not been informed of the increase in the war prisoners here but that if the



‘nuisance’ of women loitering about the camp had let up considerably but that alert lookout is being maintained to prevent a recurrence of the habit of many women driving to and remaining near the camp site.”

Following the news of possibly having more POW’s in Gettysburg, the *Gettysburg Compiler* had on page one of their September 9, 1944 edition, “Armory Houses War Prisoners.” It stated that an additional 100 prisoners arrived in Gettysburg the previous Monday (September 4) and are quartered at the state armory temporarily. Captain Thomas had reported two days after this arrival that the regular POW Camp had reached capacity. He stated that the new POWs are working in tomato and corn fields, peach orchards and canneries. He also stated that these new POWs were brought in to help meet a peak labor need on county farms and in orchards. He also went on to state that these new POWs would not be in Gettysburg beyond September 30. “Additional guards were brought here to handle the new contingent of prisoners.” On September 16, 1944, an article appeared in *The Gettysburg Star and Sentinel*, entitled “May Keep 200 Prisoners for the Winter Season.” At this point in time according to the article the Gettysburg POW Camp contained approximately 350 POWs with about an additional 100 POWs billeted at the Armory on West Confederate Avenue. With the coming of winter and lesser need for field hands and farm workers in the apple industry, there were some concerns. The concerns of the local corporations reached the US Army, who surveyed the land of the former CCC Camp for its viability to house 200+ POWs for the winter. What was eventually decided was that the POWs were moved to the former CC Camp NR-2 in McMillan Woods. The remaining POWs were moved to Camp Michaux at the old Pine Grove Furnace site off US 30, west of Gettysburg.

Prior to the war’s end in Europe, the prisoners in Gettysburg had been moved to Camp Michaux-Pine Grove Furnace Camp. From there they were processed for release and sent to New York for transportation home. With the war in the Pacific still raging, in a very secret move, Japanese POWs were sent to Camp Michaux. Their interment was shortlived as the war ended soon after their arrival.

Though as you can tell from the articles published in local newspapers, the keeping of POWs in Gettysburg, Camp Sharpe and Camp Michaux-Pine Grove Furnace Camp was quite openly reported, but this was not the full situation. The “*workers from outside the country*” aspect of this was very open and in plain sight of all, especially the farmers and citizens of the Gettysburg-Adams County area. However, according to a November 6, 1986 article by J.C. North entitled “Secret Site Housed Up To 1.500 in WWII” other aspects of the POWs residing was not made public until that time. It was then brought out that The Pine Grove Furnace Camp part of Camp Michaux was a highly secret POW Camp operated by the Intelligence Department of the Army. It was initially set up to house and interrogate German

According to the National Archives there were approximately 3 Million POWs held by the Allies in WWII and approximately 425,000 POWs were held in the United States. The POW Camps in the Gettysburg and Adams County area operated from April 1943 to August 1946. Along with the POW Camps in Gettysburg, Camp Michaux and Pine Grove Camp housed POWs who whether through their labor in the fields and canneries to keep our domestic and military supply lines going, or in supplying needed intelligence on enemy operations abroad, POWs helped to contribute to the Allied Forces victory.

### The P.O.W. Marker at Camp Michaux



According to historical records the opening and closing dates of the Pine Grove Furnace P.O.W. Camp are May, 1943 through Nov. 28, 1945. The P.O.W. Marker was not painted. Vince Montano reserves the right to modify this illustration at any time for historical accuracy.

*A special thank you to the staff and volunteers at the Adams County Historical Society in Gettysburg.*

*Without their assistance, this article could not have been written. Images used are from the Adams*

*County Historical Society's files.*

# Officers for The Union

## Ladies for The Union

### 2018 Calendar of Events

**April 22** Colonel Myer Asch GAR Marker Ceremony, Queens, NY  
**April 28 – 29** Neshaminy State Park Civil War Weekend, Bensalem, PA  
**May 12 – 13** \*Rupp House, Gettysburg, PA  
**May 19 – 20** USAHEC Carlisle, PA  
**June 16** \*\*\*West Hanover, PA Living History  
**June 23** National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg, PA  
**July 1, 2, 3** \*\*Red Patch, Gettysburg, PA  
**July 7 -8** \*Rupp House, Gettysburg, PA  
**July 21 – 22** Landis Valley  
**August 4-5** Heritage Center, Gettysburg, PA  
**August 12 – 13** \*Rupp House, Gettysburg, PA  
**August 18 – 19** \*\*\*History Time Line Event, Wyndham Complex, Gettysburg, PA  
**September 15 – 16** \*Rupp House, Gettysburg, PA  
**October 20** \*\*\*Lexington Museum, Lexington, VA  
**November 3 -4** Living History Encampment, Barnegat, NJ  
**November 17** Remembrance Day Parade, Gettysburg, PA

\*Rupp House History Center, 415 Baltimore St., 10:00 to 4:00 PM, evening program 7:30 PM

\*\* Red Patch B&B, 64 West Confederate Ave., 10:00 to 4:00 PM, evening Fire Side Talks 7:30 PM

\*\*\* Tentative – check our web site, [UnionOfficers.org](http://UnionOfficers.org) after April 1, 2018 for schedule updates and details.

Dear Brigade,

There was a lot of changes to the Second New Jersey Board this season, and with that changes to your impression representatives. We applaud the years of service by those who recently stepped down at this past meeting. They are as follows:

Greg Belcastro ( 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt 7<sup>th</sup> NJ A / President Retired / Infantry Rep)

Pat Belcastro (Civilian Rep)

Brian Egbert (Sgt 7<sup>th</sup> NJ Signal Corps / Signal Corps Rep)

Tim Rack (Captain 1<sup>st</sup> NJ / Artillery Rep)

Please be sure to thank them personally when you see them in the field. These people helped raise thousands for CWPT, scholarships, and impression equipment!!

**If you have new information to pass along to the whole organization please forward it on to your Executive Board at your soonest convenience. They are as follows:**

Mike Milling (President / Infantry Rep) [millingm@wpunj.edu](mailto:millingm@wpunj.edu)

Robert Bowell (Vice President / Infantry Rep) [robertbowellsr@gmail.com](mailto:robertbowellsr@gmail.com)

Lin Kaufer (Treasurer / Civilian Rep) [ldecibus@gmail.com](mailto:ldecibus@gmail.com)

Abby Belcastro (Secretary / Civilian Coordinator and Rep) [abbyale21@gmail.com](mailto:abbyale21@gmail.com)

**If you have Brigade suggestions, events, or Brigade concerns please pass them along to your impression reps at your soonest convenience. They are as follows:**

#### Artillery

Marie O'Grady (Pvt 1<sup>st</sup> NJ A)

Bill Piper (Private 1<sup>st</sup> NJ A / Captain 1<sup>st</sup> NJ A retired)

#### Infantry

Matt Belcastro (Captain 7<sup>th</sup> A)

Brian Zilinski ( Bvt Lieutenant 7<sup>th</sup> NJ A / Field Music Rep)

Robert Bowell (Private 7<sup>th</sup> NJ A)

Tom Zilinski Sr (Private 7<sup>th</sup> NJ A)

Mike Milling (Clr Sgt 7<sup>th</sup> NJ A)

Amery Vasso (Private 7<sup>th</sup> NJ A)

#### Headquarters

Rich Walker (Ord Sgt 7<sup>th</sup> NJ A)

#### Civilians

Abby Belcastro (Civilian Coordinator)

Lin Kaufer (Civillian)

#### Cavalry

Hans Artz (Captain 2<sup>nd</sup> NJ)





### Signal Corps

Jim Jennings (7<sup>th</sup> NJ Signal Corps / Second Brigade Charter Member)

### USCT

Charles Harris (Sgt 22<sup>nd</sup> USCT)

Robert Howell (Alternate 22<sup>nd</sup> USCT)

### Field Hospital

Michelle Catona (Nurse 7<sup>th</sup> NJ Field Hospital)

Brigade Board meetings are typically scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month February to November. They are held at the PSE&G building on Brown Ave in Springfield NJ. All members are welcomed, and encouraged to attend the meetings. If you have interest in representing the board please let your current representatives know.

We look forward to serving you!

Sincerely

Mike Milling

President 2<sup>nd</sup> NJ Brigade



THE HISTORIC VILLAGE  
OF



# ALLENTOWN

LIVING HISTORY & SKIRMISH

OCTOBER 13TH & 14TH, 2018

Heritage Park  
28 South Main Street

# THE SUTLERS TENT

CAST IRON FRYING PANS  
FOR SALE

6, 8 & 10 inch round  
10 inch square  
10 inch griddle

Was thinking on selling whole set \$60....make offer for individual pieces.

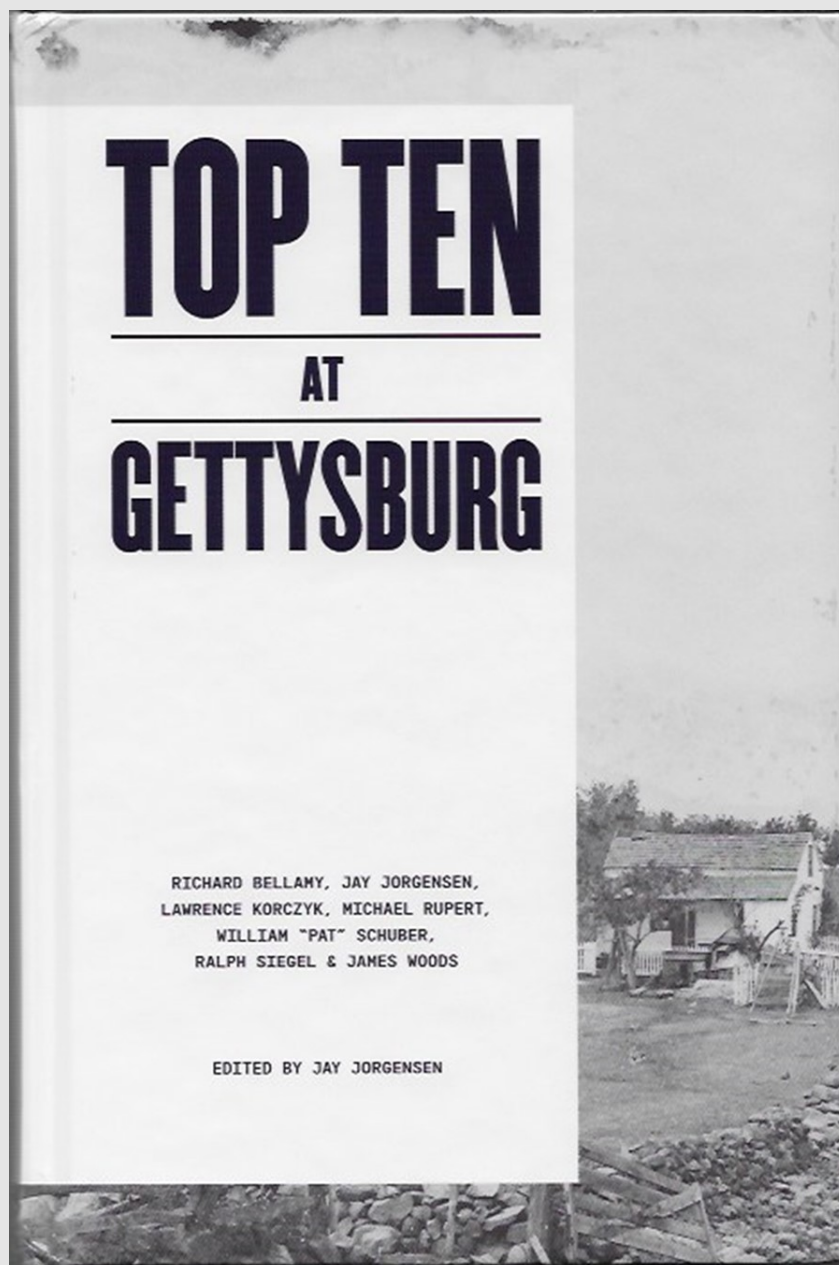
Contact: [marievanentreuren@aol.com](mailto:marievanentreuren@aol.com)

[www.alamy.com](http://www.alamy.com) - ERG7X0





## A NEW BOOK BY ONE OF OUR OWN!



**This is a new book by edited by Jay Jorgensen of the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table. It's very well done and a quicker way to gain some insight to the Gettysburg experience. It includes several pieces written by our 2<sup>nd</sup> NJ Brigade member, Sgt Larry Korczyk of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rhode Island.**

**THIS WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ADVANCE BY MEMBER BRUCE FORM. HE IS A MEMBER OF BOT HE 2ND BRIGADE AND THE ROBERT E. LEE ROUND TABLE. HE ALSO PROVIDED A COPY OF THE PREFACE GIVING US THE BACKGROUND FOR THIS NEW BOOK!**

## Top 10 At Gettysburg

### Preface

The genesis for *Top Ten at Gettysburg* came about on one of my many return trips from Gettysburg. My wife had just completed the Gettysburg Half-Marathon (garnering a personal best time!) and was resting comfortably as I drove us home to New Jersey. With plenty of time to myself, I began thinking of different things, places, and individuals associated with the Battle of Gettysburg. Soon I thought of them in various lists. As I did so, former *Late Show* host David Letterman's "Top 10" skit crossed my mind, leading to the concept for this book.

All that was needed at that point was to enlist the assistance of people who knew Gettysburg inside and out, and who had a knack for presenting their knowledge in an informative and entertaining manner. Fortunately I knew several people who fit that bill – Rich Bellamy, Larry Korczyk, Mike Rupert, Pat Schuber, Ralph Siegel and Jim Woods. They all agreed to contribute to the book. We engaged in some good-natured "give and take" in coming up with our respective lists. The results are in this book, although we probably had more than enough additional information to come up with another two or three books.

The Top 10 Lists are by no means definitive in nature. They are simply the product of the author's concept of who or what fits under each list. Undoubtedly readers will feel that somebody else should be included in a particular list. Or that a different regiment should be included. Or that a particular favorite regimental monument was left out. Or (fill in your distinct point of view here!). The armchair speculations should prove to be an interesting pastime. We're sure that anybody with a passing interest in the Battle of Gettysburg will find enough in this book to stoke an interest to return to the battlefield with *Top Ten at Gettysburg* in hand and revisit the sites.

Another word to the wise about these Top Ten Lists...they are not necessarily listed in order of importance. In fact, the lists are rarely comprised so as to give a build up to the top one, or bottom ten, of any particular topic. Also, since all of the authors were working independently of each other there are some overlaps in the information presented. However, rather than seek to winnow the lists down, it was a conscious decision to maintain the integrity of each author's list, hence some overlaps.

I am particularly indebted to Henry F. Ballone for his help, assistance, guidance, and contributions to this book. His expertise in the publishing field and his willingness to help every step of the way have been tremendous. Thanks to Jim Grutzmacher for accompanying me in finding some of the out of the way monuments. Bruce Form deserves a well-deserved thanks for his assistance in tracking down wonderful newspaper accounts at Gettysburg. Ralph Siegel lent his considerable editorial skills to help make editing manageable.

Special thanks go out to all of our friends who helped provide a word of encouragement, a little known fact, or an interesting story along the way. Thanks, also, to the individuals who have read a draft of this book and have generously provided their thoughts, suggestions, and comments. We hope that you enjoy the book, and that it prompts you to start coming up with your own Top Ten at Gettysburg lists.

Jay Jorgensen



# ENCAMPMENT ON EAST BAY

THE SECOND NEW JERSEY BRIGADE WILL BE SETTING UP CAMP  
AT 651 & 653 E BAY AVE BARNEGAT NJ, 08005

NOVEMBER 3-4, 2018

10AM TO 4PM



Please come for a fun-filled educational weekend! The Second NJ Brigade will have representatives of the Cavalry, Infantry, Field Hospital, Field Music, Artillery, 22nd USCT, Signal Corps, and Civilians. They will give demonstrations on Civil War life, activities and duties associated with their impressions. Also, there will be a tour of a fairly undisturbed pre-Civil War Federal Colonial built in 1836 at 653 E Bay Ave. Although donations are welcome and appreciated, this event is free to the general public. Proceeds support the Second NJ Brigade, and Barnegat Historical Society.

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE  
CONTRIBUTORS, AND READERS!**



**SEE YOU ON THE FIELD!**