

MS – 150: The Battle of Gettysburg 150th Commemoration Collection

(6 boxes, 2.75 cubic feet)

Accession #2014-0131

Inclusive Dates: 2011-2013

*Processed by: Chelsea Bucklin '10, Amy Lucadamo, & Bryan Caswell '15
June/July 2013 & June 2014*

Provenance: With funding support from the Civil War Institute, Special Collections was able to select and purchase seed items for this collection from the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center and the Gettysburg Diorama gift shops. Purchases were made on Friday, June 28, 2013, the first of the “Ten Great Days” being held in Gettysburg to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Battle of Gettysburg. Photographs, programs, and ticket stubs of events were collected by Special Collections staff members attending battle reenactment activities on July 1, 2, and 3, 2013. Focused oral histories were commissioned by the Civil War Institute and conducted by historian Joan Zenzen of individuals from various backgrounds who participated in the events or preparations in some way. Those interviews are included in this collection as well as artifacts and documents donated by other individuals after the commemoration events.

History

Reunions and celebrations of the anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg began to be held before the American Civil War had even concluded. Many of these early commemorations were small-scale affairs involving one or two Union regiments that had gathered to dedicate their respective monuments on the battlefield. These unit gatherings offered men the chance to reconnect with old comrades and relive the past glories of their regiment while affirming their own patriotism and honoring the sacrifice of the fallen.

The first major commemoration of an anniversary occurred in 1878, marking fifteen years since the battle's occurrence. Major reunions would continue to be held in 1888, 1913, and 1938. These official reunions were not so much private events for the veterans as they were public spectacles. Due to the widespread perception of Gettysburg as the greatest and most important battle of the war, Gettysburg reunions quickly became the most prominent of any Civil War-related event, much as it is today, and as a result these veteran reunions were not confined only to men who had fought at Gettysburg. Indeed, both Confederate and Union veterans from all theaters of the war took part. The events of these reunions provided a platform from which politicians could crow about the romantic reunion of the North and South, symbolized by old soldiers re-walking the route of Pickett's Charge before clasping hands with their once-adversaries over the low stone wall that had separated them years earlier. Just like the smaller regimental affairs, the major reunions also provided an arena for the dedication of monuments, though on a much grander scale. The most famous of these was the Eternal Flame

Peace Memorial, or Peace Light as it is generally known, which was dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the 1938 reunion.

The 1938 Gettysburg Reunion was the last of the great reunions of veterans at Gettysburg. Seventy-five years after the resolution of the battle, those veterans who had not already died were growing too feeble to continue traveling across the country. Twenty-five years later in 1963, the centennial anniversary of the battle ushered in a new era of commemoration. No longer had the events of 1863 been lived by any person attending, and the closest anyone may have come to personal familiarity with the war derived from stories told by the old veterans before their passing. It may for this reason that the Centennial anniversary of the Civil War saw what many believe to be the genesis of modern reenacting. Civilians, bedecked in period clothing and gear of varying accuracy, attempted to recreate some of the most famous scenes of combat from the Civil War and in particular the Battle of Gettysburg, possibly seeking to reestablish the link between commemoration and the personal experience of lived history.

The Centennial Anniversary also brought with it the politicization and scholarly reappraisal of Civil War battlefields and their interpretation to the public. Into the 1960s, nearly all interpretation of Civil War battlefields had focused exclusively on the military aspect of the conflict, with the complex political, social, and racial elements of Civil War history marginalized or outright ignored. The initial efforts of the Federal Centennial Commission to commemorate the war initially followed this theme, yet nearly imploded when forced to confront the concurrent Civil Rights movement. As well as highlighting the unfinished work of emancipation and reconstruction, the Civil Rights movement caused friction between northern delegates and the head of the commission, General Ulysses S. Grant III, grandson of the Union general, who heavily sympathized with the racially sterilized version of the war. Events came to a head when, during a commission conference in South Carolina, the New Jersey party of members demanded that one of their number, an African-American man, be accommodated at the segregated hotel where the meeting was to take place. Grant and commission leadership refused. The resulting fallout nearly scuttled the entire project, forcing Grant to resign and be replaced by Alan Nevins, a professional historian and published author on the Civil War. Under this new academic leadership the commission did succeed in carrying out its commemoration, and the fiasco of the body's near-demise prompted a re-examination of the war and its interpretation in both scholarly and federal circles. This effort would ultimately culminate in the National Park Service's commitment to presenting these complex histories at national battlefields and historic sites alongside the more traditional military approach.

The sesquicentennial commemoration of the American Civil War took place amidst a similar storm of controversy, albeit drastically less momentous. Due to strong partisanship in Congress, no commission was formed to oversee the events of the anniversary, and severe budget cuts endangered the ability of many parks and battlefields to prepare. What had been the jurisdiction of the national commission for the centennial commemoration was relegated to local and state bodies. Though interest in the commemoration and the Civil War in general did increase nationwide surrounding the anniversary, the swell was not as large as many had

predicted.

Academics too returned to the mix in full force, hoping to capitalize on the upswing of popular interest to educate the general public on some of the finer points of recent scholarship. A general feeling of 'reclaiming the Civil War for scholars' persisted, with many decrying romantic images of the war and advocating a harsher, more 'realistic' portrayal. This outlook generated a number of clashes between academics and re-enactors, as the latter were and are generally seen to embody the romanticizing of the conflict.

In Gettysburg, the community organized its own planning committee for the Sesquicentennial, to act alongside and in coordination with the efforts of the National Park Service. The body of this committee was made up of a diverse array of local officials, academics, and students and faculty from Gettysburg College. Active from the beginning of the sesquicentennial period in 2011 to the end of 2013, this committee was responsible for organizing community events that encouraged local and student participation as well as assisting in the running of the official Gettysburg 150th commemorative activities.

As the most publicized event of the Sesquicentennial, the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg did not experience any problems with lack of interest. Estimates place the number of total visitors at over three hundred thousand for the week of the commemoration.¹ Two separate re-enactment events were held, and while neither took place on the battlefield itself, a commemorative walk of the route of Pickett's Charge did occur in real-time on July 3, as civilians and re-enactors in period garb retraced the steps of not only the soldiers of one hundred and fifty years earlier but the veterans of one hundred years earlier as well. Events were not just confined to the real and imaginary battlefields, and a wide variety of events were held throughout the year, from lectures to concerts. The conclusion of the Gettysburg Sesquicentennial Events came with the observance of the 150th Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address on November 19, what is known locally as Dedication Day.

Series Description

This collection is divided into four series.

Series 1: Artifacts and Memorabilia

This series contains physical items connected to the celebration of the Sesquicentennial. These artifacts range from special 150th T-shirts and apparel to pins, coins, beverage glasses, and all manner of other small souvenirs as well as special editions of wine for the anniversary.

Series 2: Guide Materials

Included within this series are materials published to guide visitors around Gettysburg during the commemoration. These fall into two broad categories. The first group of publications was

¹ Vanessa Pellechio, "Officials: Gettysburg 150th Attendance Numbers in Hundreds of Thousands," *Hanover Evening Sun*, 7 July, 2013.

meant to aid visitors in navigating the numerous Sesquicentennial events. The second consists of materials specifically designed to guide visitors around the battlefield during the anniversary.

Series 3: Brochures and Event Coverage

This series contains brochures published by museums and institutions in observance of the Sesquicentennial as well as any documentation or coverage of the myriad special events held during the commemorative period. These include official National Park Service events, battle reenactments, and events sponsored by Gettysburg College.

Series 4: Periodicals and Special Editions

This series consists of periodicals, periodical articles, special 150th Anniversary Editions of publications concerning the events of the Sesquicentennial. Books, magazines, and newspapers are all contained herein.

Scope and Content

This collection contains physical items and documents as well as digital resources. It seeks to preserve the course and experience of the commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and other related historical events. The documents and publications contained within the collection not only record the many commemorative events that were held over a two-year period but also how those events progressed. Detailed coverage in the form of DVDs has been collected of many events, while the outline of many more has been captured through the compilation of their programs and other event information. Much of the official battle reenactment has been recorded in an extensive array of digital photographs, and the guides provided for and used by visitors demonstrate the resources available to assist in choosing which of the dazzling array of events to attend. The collection of artifacts and memorabilia serves as but a sample of the all that was available to the public to obtain from the commemoration, and thus offers a glimpse into how some may themselves remember the Sesquicentennial festivities in years to come.

Items marked with an asterisk () indicate that the official logo of the 150th Commemoration was used.

GC = Gettysburg College Item

NPS = National Park Service Item

[] = Original found in Oversize

Series 1 — Artifacts and Memorabilia

October 2013 Pennsylvania Archaeology Month poster

Good Intent Cider (bottle), The Battle of Gettysburg 150th Anniversary Edition

Gettysburg Winery 150th Anniversary Commemorative Package, containing bottle of

“Tears of Gettysburg,” bottle of “Rebel Red,” and 3 glasses*

Artifact Tray 1

Iron-on Patch: 150th Anniversary 1863-2013 Gettysburg, PA
Spoon: 10th Anniversary 1863-2013 Battle of Gettysburg
Shot Glass (wooden): Gettysburg Pennsylvania 150th Anniversary 1863-2013
Shot Glass (glass): 150th Anniversary Gettysburg, PA 1863-2013
Pin (hanging with crossed sabers): 150th Anniversary Gettysburg 1863-2013
Pin (2, enamel): 150th Gettysburg Commemoration*
Pressed Penny: Gettysburg 150th Anniversary
Rubber Bracelet: Gettysburg: Yankee/Rebel
Keychain (enamel): Gettysburg 150th Anniversary 1863-2013
Playing Cards: Gettysburg 150th Anniversary 1863-2013
Magnet (3-D, Lincoln v. Lee): Battle of Gettysburg 150th Anniversary 1863-2013
Golf Ball (Nike): 150th Gettysburg Commemoration*
Quarters (2): Gettysburg National Military Park U.S. Minted Quarter Dollars, 2011 National
Parks Quarter Program, Vol. 1
Coin: Abraham Lincoln 150th Anniversary, Gettysburg Address on reverse
Coin: 2013 the Battle of Gettysburg 150th Anniversary

Artifact Tray 2

Wood Cut (featuring Lincoln): 150th Anniversary Gettysburg 1863-2013
Mug (ceramic, featuring Gettysburg Address): 150th Gettysburg Commemoration
Pint Glass (glass): Gettysburg 150th July 1863
Piggy Bank (ceramic): 2013 The Battle of Gettysburg 150th Anniversary July 1, 2, & 3rd 1863
Pocket Watch (silver): Gettysburg 150th July 1863
Mug: Battle of Gettysburg, July 1, 2 & 3, 1863 with reenactment photo graphics

Hat Box

Gettysburg 150 Union Kepi*

Oversize/Textile Box

Apron: 150th Gettysburg Commemoration*
Oven Mitt: 150th Gettysburg Commemoration*
Pot Holder: 150th Gettysburg Commemoration*
Tee Shirt (child's size, neon pink): Gettysburg 150th Anniversary 1863/2013
Tee Shirt (black with skulls): 2013 Gettysburg 150th Anniversary/Gettysburg Motorcycle Week
Tee Shirt (gray): 150th Gettysburg Commemoration*
Tee Shirt (navy blue): Abbey Road album cover-style featuring Meade, Lee, Chamberlain, and
Lincoln
Tee Shirt (army green): Shepard Fairey style with Gettysburg 150th Anniversary
Tote bag: 150th Anniversary, Gettysburg, picturing Lee and Meade
"War of the Rebellion 150th Anniversary," 1863-2013 Calendar
The Gettysburg Story movie poster, signed by Jake Boritt and Stephen Lang

Page Box

U.S. Christian Commission-Gettysburg card, "U.S. Millennium Note", & Autographed *President Lincoln's Own Band* Dedication Day 2013 leaflet, 19 November, 2013
Envelope – Gettysburg stamp, postmark, and silkscreened miniature of "The Angle – Pickett's Charge" by Paul Philippoteaux
The Gettysburg Story a film by Jake Boritt, narrated by Stephen Lang, Gettysburg 150th Anniversary Edition, autographed by Steven Lang – DVD
Civil War Sesquicentennial envelope with Gettysburg stamps from 1963 & 2013
Battle of Gettysburg 150th Anniversary Postcards (2)
Postcards – Holographic Battle of the Ironclads & Abraham Lincoln
150th Gettysburg Bumper sticker*

Series 2 – Guide Materials

Page Box

NPS: *Today in the Park: Official Summer Planner: June 08-August 18, 2013*
150th Anniversary Commemorative Events Guide, June 29-July 7 (2 copies)
Celebrate Gettysburg: Dining & Entertainment Guide, Special Edition Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg
2013 Official Visitor Guide "Gettysburg: Reflections of History" (2 copies)*
Adams County Winery Event and Free Concert Guide*
NPS: Gettysburg National Military Park Map – National Park Service map, 2013 (2 copies)
Gettysburg Expedition Guide Audio Tour & Guidebook and DVD-ROM, with Audio Tour CD and "Gettysburg Animated" DVD
Gettysburg Field Guide narrated by Wayne Motts, Illustrated Guidebook & Self-Guided Audio Tour with CDs
GC: Information card, Civil War Walking Tour, "The College Hospital" by Craig Schneider '07, [1863 to 2013 comparison graphic]
Official Media Guide- Gettysburg 150th
150th Anniversary- College Events Schedule

Oversize/Textile Box

NPS: 2013 Ranger Program and Shuttle Maps, June 30th-July 4th* (2 copies)
Gettysburg College 1863 to 2013 comparison graphic

Series 3 – Brochures and Event Publications

Page Box

Brochure from the Seminary Ridge Museum, Gettysburg, PA
Brochures from the Archives of the Daughters of Charity, Emmitsburg, MD – Civil War and Gettysburg 150th events
The Future of Civil War History: Looking Beyond the 150th conference program, March 2013

GC: "Gettysburg at 150: 1863-2013, Music of the American Civil War" CD from the Sunderman Conservatory Wind Symphony, Russel McCutcheon, Conductor; Brandon Almagro and Colin Wise, Soloists, 2013

GC: Majestic Theater flyers and advertisements: *addressing Gettysburg, The Road from Appomattox*, movies, "Let Us Here Dedicated" The 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, and the 2013-2014 Season

NPS: *Gettysburg: A New Birth of Freedom*, June 30, 2013, event program

June 30th, 2013 PCN Gettysburg 150th DVD

July 1st, 2013 PCN Gettysburg 150th DVD

July 2nd, 2013 PCN Gettysburg 150th DVD

July 3rd, 2013 PCN Gettysburg 150th DVD

150th Anniversary Gettysburg Civil War Battle Reenactment – website information

150th Anniversary Gettysburg Battle Reenactment – General Admission ticket and schedule of events

150th Gettysburg Anniversary National Civil War Reenactment – Commemorative Program

GC: Andy & Lucy Photography, "Congressional Medal of Honor Society Town Hall Forum" DVD, 20 September, 2013

GC: Andy & Lucy Photography, "A Concert Celebrating America's Heroes: Past – Present – Future" DVD, 20 September, 2013

GC: Andy & Lucy Photography, "Abraham Lincoln: Music and Dance of His Time" DVD and Program, 21 September, 2013

Gettysburg Great Symposium, 2 October 2013 and 18 March 2014

Following Lincoln's Footsteps, 18 November 2013

"The Price of Freedom" 18 November 2013

Dedication Day 2013 program, 19 November, 2013 (4 copies)

GC: 2013 Fortenbaugh Lecture ticket, 19 November, 2013

PCN Lincoln Traveling Exhibit and Slaves, Soldiers Exhibit 2013 DVD

Series 4 – Periodicals and Special Editions

Gettysburg Times Saturday, July 6, 2013

"Civil War 150, Chapter VII: Fall of 1863" *The Washington Post* Sunday, September 15, 2013

Page Box

The Civil War Kids 150: Fifty Fun Things to Do, See, Make, and Find for the 150th Anniversary. Nichole L. Oiser, Sheralyn Morehouse, Garry E. Adelman, Clayton Butler, eds. Lyons Press, Guilford, CT: 2012.

150 Things to Know: The Battle of Gettysburg – Battle Anniversary edition. Sandy Allison, editor. Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA: 2013.

Civil War News XXXIX, No. 1 (January 2013)

Civil War News XXXIX, No. 4 (May 2013)

NPS: *The Sentinel* – National Park Service magazine (2 copies)
Reflections of History publication (2 copies)*
Gettysburg Borough Newsletter Special 150th Issue, Summer 2013
[*The Battle News*, Summer 2013]
“Gettysburg: A Day-by-Day Account of the Greatest Battle of the Civil War,” *Time* 150th
Anniversary Edition
The Gettysburg Experience, July 2013 (2 copies)
Celebrate Gettysburg July/August 2013
[“A Spirited but peaceful Pickett’s Charge,” *Washington Post*, July 4, 2013]
Central PA Magazine September/October 2013

OverSIZE/Textile Box

“A Spirited but peaceful Pickett’s Charge,” *Washington Post*, July 4, 2013
The Battle News, Summer 2013
USA Today special edition “Gettysburg: Turning point of the Civil War,” sold through July 8,
2013
New York Times “36 Hours: Gettysburg, PA,” Sunday, June 30, 2013 (2 copies)

Consolidated Inventory

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Oven Mitt: 150th Gettysburg Commemoration*
Pot Holder: 150th Gettysburg Commemoration*
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Tote bag: 150th Anniversary, Gettysburg, picturing Lee and Meade
Gettysburg 150: A Commemorative Magazine produced by the Gettysburg foundation and the
staff of the *Gettysburg Times*, July 2013
“War of the Rebellion 150th Anniversary,” 1863-2013 Calendar
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Envelope – Gettysburg stamp, postmark, and silkscreened miniature of "The Angle – Pickett's Charge" by Paul Philippoteaux

The Gettysburg Story a film by Jake Boritt, narrated by Stephen Lang, Gettysburg 150th Anniversary Edition, autographed by Steven Lang – DVD

Civil War Sesquicentennial envelope with Gettysburg stamps from 1963 & 2013

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