

ARTILLERY
IN THE CIVIL WAR:
An intensive study

OCTOBER 21-24, 2021

Civil War History Conference



www.CivilWarSeminars.org

“Artillery adds dignity, to what would otherwise be an ugly brawl.”

--Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, 1740-1786

WELCOME FROM OUR PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Welcome to our fall 2021 program, Artillery in the Civil War. We are excited about this unique program, which will focus entirely on the role of artillery in the American Civil War. Our fall 2021 seminar continues the series begun in the fall of 2020, when we focused upon the role of infantry in the Civil War. Unfortunately, COVID-19 forced us to conduct that program virtually. We're pleased to be able to offer this year's person live and in person. We're excited to be able to offer a variety of excellent tours and lectures

One Confederate veteran described the Army of Northern Virginia's artillery as "The Long Arm of Lee." Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman declared that "A battery of field artillery is worth a thousand muskets." Artillery played a crucial role in numerous battles of the American Civil War, in few instances more so than at Antietam and Gettysburg. Join us as we explore the role played by artillery in the Civil War. We will enjoy a day of lectures by noted experts on Civil War artillery such as David L. Shultz that will feature a live-fire demonstration by Civil War living historians.

As is the hallmark of our programs, we will have two full days of touring the Antietam and Gettysburg battlefields, with a particular focus on the role of artillery. Dr. Tom Clemens will lead the Antietam tour, while James A. Hessler, a licensed battlefield guide, will lead the Gettysburg tour along with Dave Shultz and our program coordinator, Eric Wittenberg.

On Sunday morning, we will have an optional tour of the sites associated with Union and Confederate horse artillery at Gettysburg led by program coordinator Eric Wittenberg.

We would like thank Dave Shultz for his help in lining up speakers and in helping to plan this event. We also recognize the legacy of Ted Alexander in envisioning and creating these programs in partnership with the Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce many years ago. This is our first in-person program to be held in Chambersburg since Ted's passing.

As our long-time attendees know, a major goal of these seminars is to raise money for battlefield preservation and education. To date, we have raised more than \$225,000, and we expect to raise more with this event. We thank you for your ongoing support of those efforts.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Wittenberg", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Eric Wittenberg
*Program Coordinator
Chambersburg Civil War
Seminars & Tours*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

CONFERENCE LOCATION:

HAMPTON INN

955 Leshar Road
Chambersburg, PA 17202
717-261-9185

<http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/pennsylvania/hampton-inn-chambersburg-CBBRGHX/index.html>

All participants are responsible for arranging hotel accommodations for the seminar, which is not included in tour price. \$105/night double occupancy plus tax. Special pricing for participants based on room availability. When making reservations, mention Chambersburg Civil War Seminars. Use code C-CWS online.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Conference based at Hampton Inn at 955 Leshar Rd., Chambersburg, Pa 17202.
- Deluxe continental breakfast for Hampton Inn guests each morning.
- Check-In will be in the hotel lobby about 1 hour before the day's activities begin. You only need to check-in once.
- Each participant will receive a packet of tactical maps and a name badge at check-in
- Classroom sessions will be held in the Hampton Inn conference room.

an out-sized role in the battle and both sides had good reason to label it as such. With 313 Union guns dueling with 246 Confederate guns, and firing tens of thousands of round, the artillery was a constant and significant factor in the stubborn defense offered by Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, and the constant pounding of artillery by the Army of the Potomac accounted for many of the casualties inflicted by that army. This tour will not only take participants to various artillery sites on the battlefield, (some off the beaten path), but provide an analysis of the types of guns, and usage of them, the command and organization of artillery, and leadership within the artillery ranks.

Sites to visit:

- Antietam Visitor Center for orientation of battlefield and the artillery pieces employed by both sides.
- Eastern Bluffs of Antietam Creek—Union Artillery Reserve
- Joseph Poffenberger Farm—1st Corps "super battery"
- Guns in the bloody cornfield—Battery B 4 US Art; Thompson, Matthews & Ransom, others; Carlton & other CS guns
- Hauser's Ridge, Sedgwick's repulse
- Miller's Battery & Graham's K, 1 US Art at Sunken Road
- Cemetery Hill, Froebel's Battalion & Washington Art
- Artillery at Burnside bridge & final attack

Dinner on your own.

7-9 p.m. **Mingling in North/South Conference Room. Book Vendor Civil War & More on site.**

Thursday, Oct. 21

- Bus leaves from Hampton Inn
- Lunch included
- Return by 5 p.m.
- Dinner on your own

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. "Antietam: Artillery Hell" Bus and walking tour led by Tom Clemens

Bus Tour Description:

The battle of Antietam, or Sharpsburg, was labelled "Artillery Hell" with good reason, as artillery played

Friday, Oct. 22

8:30 a.m.—12 p.m. Morning Lectures

- Lectures held at Hampton Inn's North/South Room at 955 Leshar Road in Chambersburg.
- Book Vendor, Civil War & More on site

Lectures include:

- **Welcome & Introduction by Eric Wittenberg, program coordinator**

Myths and Realities of Civil War Artillery by Craig Swain

Much more than simple ornaments marking the battle lines of the contest, the cannon we find marking our battlefields today offer interesting stories. While some have suffered in the retelling over the 160 years since the start of the war, overall these stories provide insight into what qualities and attributes the fighting men valued in the weapons used in the bitter contest. What guns were produced most and why? How quickly did the armies discard obsolete cannon? Did rifled guns supplant, or merely augment, the smoothbores? And just how French was the famous Napoleon gun? We will explore these and other stories of the guns.

“Horse Artillery in the Civil War” by Eric Wittenberg

Both the Union and the Confederacy made extensive use of horse artillery as an adjunct to their cavalry commands throughout the course of the Civil War. These little-known artillery units made significant contributions to cavalry campaigns. We will meet well-known figures such as John Pelham and John H. Calef, the 23-year-old Regular Army artillerist who fought with John Buford at Gettysburg. We will also meet lesser-known figures such as Medal of Honor recipient Robert Williston, Robert F. Beckham, who was the hero of the Battle of Brandy Station, and numerous others.

“The Heavies that would not stay put!” by Steve Nelson

Heavy artillery units serving in the Army of the Potomac that moved with the field artillery during the war. Steve will discuss the history of the 30 pounder Parrott Rifles, 4.5-inch Siege Rifle and why these heavy artillery units moved with the Army of the Potomac in the field. He will also cover the effectiveness of the heavy siege rifles and what happened to them following the war.

12 - 2 p.m. Lunch on your own

1-2:30 p.m. Artillery Demonstration by Knaps Battery E.

2:30—5:30 p.m. Afternoon Lectures

- Lectures held at Hampton Inn’s North/South Room at 955 Leshler Road.

“Battering Bastions and Stand-Off Dilemmas: The Evolving Role of Field Artillery in Western Warfare to the Nineteenth Century” by Chris Stowe

Field artillery played a critical role in the development of modern warfare, a period extending some five centuries from the era of high-bastioned fortifications to that of mobile land armies conducting complex operations over time and space. Stowe’s discussion centers upon the doctrinal, tactical, organizational, and technological factors that altered artillery’s function as well as its importance in western warfare to the 1860s.

“Get me all the guns you can find!” The tactical effect of massed fire in three battlefields: Shiloh, Stones River, and Chickamauga by David Powell

Each of the above battles involved instances of coordinated artillery deployments above the battery level. At Shiloh, Confederate Brigadier General Daniel Ruggles assembled the largest concentration of cannon yet seen on an American battlefield—up to 62 guns—to drive the Federals from the Sunken Road. At Stones River, Federal Major John Mendenhall assembled 45 field pieces to break the back of a Confederate charge on January 2, 1863. And at Chickamauga, Confederate Captain Henry C. Semple employed three batteries, 12 guns, in a deadly crossfire that opened a key gap in the Union defensive line around Kelly Field. All three instances provide early examples of massed artillery fire on western battlefields, though with mixed results. This talk will compare/contrast the effectiveness of each deployment.

5:30 p.m. Dinner included

7 p.m. The Men Behind the Guns - Experiences at the Battle of Gettysburg by Jessie Wheedleton

The men in the artillery at the Battle of Gettysburg give us a unique perspective of the action those three days in July. We will follow the action in chronological order through personal interest stories of the blue and gray batteries. Through their stories we can gain insight into the challenges artillerists faced on both sides and their struggle to overcome them. This lecture is designed to complement Saturday’s tour of the battlefield.

Saturday, Oct. 23

- Bus leaves from Hampton Inn
- Lunch included
- Return by 5 p.m.
- Dinner on your own

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. “Artillery of Longstreet’s Assault on July 2 at Gettysburg” bus and walking tour led by Jim Hessler with special guest Dave Shultz

Bus Tour Description:

On the afternoon of July 2, Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and James Longstreet launched a massive assault against the Army of the Potomac's left flank south of Gettysburg. The brutal attack was one of the Civil War's largest, and Southern artillerist Edward Porter Alexander described it as the hardest artillery fighting of the entire war. What role did artillery play in Lee's objectives? How was Union General Dan Sickles's unauthorized movements toward the Emmitsburg Road influenced by the need to place his cannons? Was Little Round Top really a strong position for artillery? Did General Henry Hunt and Lt. Colonel Freeman McGilvery save the day for the Union? How did the artillery organization and leadership in both armies contribute to the day's outcome? Join Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide and author James Hessler as we examine the action, human interest stories, and controversies associated with the July 2 artillery fighting at Gettysburg.

Sites to visit:

- Warfield Ridge
- Peach Orchard
- Wheatfield Road
- Little Round Top
- Trostle Farm
- McGilvery's Line

Dinner on your own.

7-9 p.m. Mingling in North/South Conference Room. Book Vendor Civil War & More on site.
***This is the last night Civil War & More will be available!**

- Bus leaves from Hampton Inn
- Lunch included
- Return by 5 p.m.
- Dinner on your own

8:30 to 5 p.m. Horse Artillery at Gettysburg—bus and walking tour led by Eric Wittenberg

Bus Tour Description:

A subset to the artillery arms at Gettysburg is the horse artillery, which travelled and served with the cavalry. This optional tour will visit sites associated with the employment of horse artillery during the Battle of Gettysburg, where both Union and Confederate cavalry forces employed horse artillery.

Sites to visit:

- McPherson's Ridge
- Seminary Ridge
- Brinkeroff's Ridge
- East Cavalry Field
- South Cavalry Field

Conference Completion by 5:00 p.m.

Thank you for your patronage!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Payment Policy: Full payment is due prior to seminar.

Cancellation Policy: -Seminar registrations cancelled two weeks before a scheduled seminar are subject to a \$100 per person administrative fee; cancellations received within two weeks will be charged 50% of the registration fee, including partial registrations or \$100 (whichever is greater).

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► **We strive to accommodate all of our seminar participants. If you have ANY dietary restrictions, please tell us during registration so we can make the appropriate arrangements.**

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SPEAKERS & GUIDES



Tom Clemens earned his doctorate at George Mason Univ. where he studied under Maryland Campaign historian Dr. Joseph L. Harsh. He has published a wide variety of magazine articles and book reviews, has appeared in several documentary programs, and is a Battlefield Guide at Antietam National Battlefield. A Professor Emeritus from Hagerstown Community College, he also helped found and is the current president of Save Historic Antietam Foundation, Inc. Clemens is the editor of the 3 volume *Maryland Campaign* by E. Carman.



Jim Hessler is a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park. Jim has authored or co-authored three full-length books on the Gettysburg campaign: *Sickles at Gettysburg*, *Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg*, and *Gettysburg's Peach Orchard*. He currently co-hosts the popular *Battle of Gettysburg* podcast, and he has been a guest on Travel Channel, NPR, PCN-TV, Breitbart News, Civil War Radio, and Gettysburg Daily. He was one of the **primary content designers for the Civil War Trust's mobile Gettysburg application**. Jim has written several articles for national publications.



Steve Nelson attended Lancaster Bible College and after a very successful career in the industrial, and heavy truck parts sales fields he retired in 2008. After retiring, he worked in an antique store in Gettysburg, and had his own online business selling Early Americana, shipwreck treasures and Civil War Antiquities for many years. As an amateur historian, he had for many years researched, and written about the Battle of Gettysburg, and served as a researcher, consultant, and artillery reference source on several books, and magazine articles. His specialty is the field artillery, ordnance, and logistics of the Battle of Gettysburg, with a particular emphasis on the Confederate Artillery. Steve is currently working on a book as co-author with renowned Gettysburg author, David Shultz, entitled **"Complexities and Complications" about the Confederate artillery at Gettysburg** (Savas Beatie).



David A. Powell authored *The Maps of Chickamauga*, *Failure in the Saddle, Chickamauga Campaign: a Mad Irregular Battle*, *Chickamauga Campaign: Glory of the Brave*, *Chickamauga Campaign: A Barren Victory*, and his most recent title, *Battle Above the Clouds*. Powell is a 1983 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute with a B.A. in History. He resides in Chicago where he works at CBS Messenger, a family business, and regularly leads tours at Chickamauga.



David Shultz is a Licensed Independent Archivist-Rare-Book & Manuscript Reader with the Henry E. Huntington Educational and Research Institute in San Marino, CA. Referred to as the "Huntington" he has spent the past 30-years many researchers and historians

focusing on Mid-American History. He is currently working on two major pieces including *"Complexities and Complications: Confederate Artillery at Gettysburg, a Comprehensive Tactical Study*, slated for 2022, a Savas Beatie release. The second work is an unfinished *Comprehensive Tactical Study of Federal Light Artillery at Gettysburg* which was inherited from the private estates of the late PhD's in History, Professors Richard Rollins and William Reddinger. He and his wife Rosemary currently reside in Webster, Texas where he is employed by Intuitive Machines at the Johnson Space Center, South Houston.



Chris Stowe serves as Professor of Military History within the War Studies Department at Marine Corps University's Command and Staff College in Quantico, Virginia. His publications include numerous articles and reviews in nineteenth-century American and military history. Among his recent works are essays in *Civil War History*, *Corps Commanders in Blue: Union Major Generals in the Civil War* (LSU Press), and the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of the Civil War* (Oxford University Press). His first full-length book, *George Gordon Meade: A Nineteenth-Century Life*, is nearing completion.



Craig Swain is a graduate of Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri, with a BA in history. Commissioned in the Army after college, he served as both a combat arms and communications officer. After leaving the Army, he continued his studies at Missouri State University. He is author of numerous articles appearing in *Civil War Times*, *America's Civil War*, *Artilleryman*, and other magazines. His award winning blog, recently relaunched, "To the Sound of the Guns," covers various aspects of the war, but with focus on artillery and the Charleston theater of war. Craig is presently an information technology manager for the IRS.



Jessie Wheedleton is a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park. She passed the oral exam in April of 2018 and began guiding full-time. Prior to her interest in the battlefield, she graduated from Maine Maritime Academy in 2009 and spent several years working at sea for Sea Education Association. In between sea semesters, she began working at Gettysburg and was inspired by many battlefield enthusiasts whose passion for the story of the battle encouraged her to pursue a future as a Licensed Guide.

Eric Wittenberg is our program coordinator, an award-winning American Civil War historian and one of the country's foremost experts on the Civil War cavalry. He is the author or co-author of 21 published books including the best-selling *Plenty of Blame to Go Around: Jeb Stuart's Controversial Ride to Gettysburg*. Eric has written more than 30 articles published in national magazines and is an avid Civil War battlefield preservationist. He is a practicing attorney and resides in Ohio with his wife, Susan.

PRICING & REGISTRATION

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Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce
100 Lincoln Way East, Suite A
Chambersburg, Pa 17201

Questions? Contact Lark Kennedy at 717-264-7101 ext. 206 or civilwarseminars@gmail.com

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Please note lodging is not included in tour price. Registration includes packet of maps, name tag, meals as described, and cold bottled water during bus tours.

Seminar registration fee schedule:

___ \$495 Members Conference Package (Entire program)

___ \$525 Non-Members Conference Package (Entire Program)

___ \$160 Thursday Only

___ \$130 Friday Only

___ \$175 Saturday Bus Tour & Evening Mix & Mingle

___ \$150 Sunday Only

***Early Bird Pricing - Save \$30** when you register for the Members or Non-Members Conference Package by August 1, 2021. Use code EARLY30 for Members, code EARLY301 for Non-Members when registering online. Questions? Email civilwarseminars@gmail.com or call 717-264-7101.

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CWRT MEMBER? We offer a special Civil War Roundtable discount of 10% off when three or more Civil War Roundtable members or Sons of the Confederate Veterans register for our conference package for the same seminar. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Call 717-264-7101 or email Lark at lkennedy@chambersburg.org for more information.

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