



July 30, 2019

Greetings from Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours,

As many of you know, Ted Alexander recently announced his retirement during our Antietam: The Bloodiest Day conference held last week. Ted along with the Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce, held the first Civil War conference in 1989 to support the local business community, attract tourism to the area and raise funds for battlefield preservation. To date, we have raised more than \$215,000 that has been donated to various nonprofit organizations that support the interpretation and preservation of our Civil War heritage. We were pleased to honor Ted's work and legacy at last week's conference with a special presentation by Lark Kennedy, Scott Anderson, Dennis Frye and Tom Clemens. Ted's vision and collaboration with the Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce has been critical to the success of the programs, and we are grateful for his 30 years of service.

Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours will continue under the umbrella of the Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce, and we are pleased to welcome Eric Wittenberg as Ted Alexander's successor. Please read this special message below from Eric regarding the transition:

*"2019 marks the 31<sup>st</sup> year for the Chambersburg Civil War Seminars. It's been a remarkable run of success, with hundreds of thousands of dollars raised for battlefield preservation. Without Ted Alexander, there would be no Chambersburg Civil War Seminars—it's that simple. These programs are the result of Ted's vision, and since 1988, they have been the gold standard for programming of its type. We owe all of that to Ted.*

*Ted has also long been a dear friend and mentor of mine. We've been friends since we met in 1992, and Ted has been a great help to me since I entered the field of serious Civil War history. He has served as a research resource, a sounding board, and most importantly, a guiding hand from the very beginning, and Ted helped me to launch my own career as a speaker and tour guide by first inviting me to participate in these programs twenty years ago. Since then, I've been a regular participant in the Seminars and have enjoyed the interactions immensely—they are always one of the highlights of my year.*

*Unfortunately, and like all things, time spares nobody, and for a variety of reasons, including health-related ones, Ted has decided that the time has come for him to step down as the coordinator of the Chambersburg Civil War Seminars. The recently concluded program on the*



*1862 Maryland Campaign marks Ted's swan song, to use his words—it was his last program as coordinator. That he will be greatly missed goes without saying.*

*Being asked to succeed Ted as program coordinator is one of the great honors of my life. I say "succeed" rather than "replace," because nobody can replace a legend. One can only hope to carry on and to maintain the high standards set by Ted. Knowing that, and with a great deal of humility and no small dose of trepidation, I have agreed to succeed Ted as program coordinator, effective immediately.*

*Change can be a scary thing, but change is inevitable and can be beneficial. Ted's stepping down is a huge change in and of itself. While things will look the same in many ways, some very significant changes are coming. We are excited about the prospects for those inevitable changes and hope you will be too.*

*Some things will remain the same. Lark Kennedy will continue to be the Chamber's designated representative for the seminars. She has been promoted to being overall coordinator for the seminars, and she is now in charge of these events overall. Those of you who have attended these events know that Lark does a great job. Scott Anderson will remain as the head of the logistics team. Together, they are the best in the business. I am greatly looking forward to working with them as a team as we move forward.*

*One of the biggest changes will be taking the annual July program on the road. After much discussion, the July programs will no longer necessarily be tied to the area near Chambersburg as they have been to date. The July 2020 program will cover the Battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, with David A. Powell as lead tour guide. The July 2021 program will focus on the Battle of Chancellorsville. The July 2022 program will cover the Battle of Vicksburg. The plan is to alternate between eastern and western campaigns—there is a whole world of new ground to cover in the detailed fashion that the Seminars do.*

*The spring conference will shift its focus beyond just the Civil War. Spring programs will focus on other conflicts such as the French & Indian War, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and other conflicts. The spring 2020 program will cover the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777, led by Michael Harris, and will focus on the Battles of Brandywine, Paoli, Germantown, Whitemarsh, and the winter encampment at Valley Forge. We are even contemplating a future trip to Montana to address the Sioux War of 1876 with visits to the Rosebud and Little Big Horn battlefields.*

*The fall conference will focus on Civil War issues and will always be based in Chambersburg. These events will have specific themes and will feature intensive study of those themes. We're still discussing this, but we're leaning toward having the fall 2020 program be an intensive study*



*of the use of infantry in the Civil War. Future fall programs will feature artillery, cavalry, and even guerrilla warfare.*

*We appreciate your loyalty and patronage for the first 31 years of the Chambersburg Civil War Seminars, and hope that you will continue to participate even though Ted has stepped down as coordinator. Exciting changes are in store, and we believe that the best is yet to come."*

- Eric Wittenberg

If you have any questions about this transition, please feel free to contact Lark directly at 717-264-7101 ext. 206. Thank you again for your support of Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours, and we look forward to seeing you in the future.

Kind Regards,

Lark Kennedy  
Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce