

THE GRETNA Chronicles

PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNT GRETNA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY • SPRING 2019



The Spanish-American War aka “A Splendid Little War” by Robin May

New this season! Come visit the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society Museum to see a new exhibit explaining the Spanish American war and featuring Mount Gretna's part in preparing soldiers for it.

The National Guard Encampment in Mount Gretna, PA played a vital part in the mobilization of Pennsylvania troops for the Spanish-American War. From 1895-1898 Cuban revolutionaries had been in bitter conflict with Spain to gain their independence. Americans were aware of the unruly situation and concerned about the economic and political instability of the nearby region. Many United States citizens wanted America to intervene.

In 1898, conditions became worse and President William McKinley sent the battleship U.S.S. Maine to the area to protect American citizens and interests

in Cuba. On February 15, 1898 an explosion caused the Maine to sink in Havana Harbor. War against Spain was declared on April 25, 1898.

On April 25, 1898, Pennsylvania Governor Daniel Hastings ordered the PA National Guard to report to the Mt. Gretna training camp. The camp was named “Camp Hastings” in honor of the Governor. The guard’s purpose was to ready themselves for participation in the Spanish-American War.

10,800 soldiers began arriving on April 27th and were welcomed by rain, sleet, and snow. Many wore only civilian clothes, expecting uniforms when they arrived.

Railroads were jammed with 175 coaches and sleeping cars, 100 baggage, box, stock, and flat cars. Tents and blankets had not yet arrived.

Thursday, April 28, 1898

“ When we reached Mt. Gretna it was raining to beat seven of a kind. We were quartered in the barracks without food, water or blankets. But we expect to get something to eat by next Tuesday.”

Men were quartered in the Farmer’s Exposition Building, bunks were set up in

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Co. D taking the oath, Mt. Gretna, May 9, 1898

The Spanish-American War aka “A Splendid Little War”

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the auditorium, some slept in Chautauqua cottages, and others stayed on the train. They were given permission to strip cottages of burnable materials for fires. Records were maintained to compensate cottage owners for damages.

By April 29th 8,994 officers and men had reached Camp Hastings. Tents were pitched and “life began to settle into a routine.” Cavalry and infantry had to feed, water, and clean the horses. Some men were on guard duty and all were drilling and training.

In order to serve in the war, Pennsylvania National Guardsmen were required to muster-out of State service to enlist in Federal service. Before making this transition, Guardsmen with families could decline enlistment. However, seventy percent of those in Camp mustered into Federal service including cavalry, infantry, and artillery.

On May 3-5, 1898 Governor Hastings inspected the troops. On May 6th the first troops mustered-in were ordered to report

to Newport News, Virginia. By June 12th the only unit remaining was the “Governors Troop” cavalry. Before they departed the men created a monument by stacking stones. This monument was inadvertently destroyed in 1908 and rebuilt in 1909.

Located on Conewago Hill, Mt Gretna, PA a plaque made of bronze from the wreck of the U.S.S. Maine was added in 1916. Two additional monuments remain in Mt. Gretna to honor the men of the “Sheridan’s Troop” cavalry and 16th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

“It has been a splendid little war, begun with the highest motives, carried on with magnificent intelligence ...”

On August 12, 1898 a cease-fire was signed. The “Splendid Little War” nicknamed by U.S. Secretary of State John Hay, officially ended with the signing of the *Treaty of Paris*

on December 10, 1898. Hay wrote to Roosevelt, July 27, 1898: “It has been a splendid little war, begun with the highest motives, carried on with magnificent intelligence and spirit, favored by that Fortune which loves the brave.”

The war established the independence of Cuba, ceded Puerto Rico and Guam to the United States, and allowed the U.S. to purchase the Philippines Islands from Spain for \$20 million.

The war cost the United States \$250 million and 3,000 lives, 90% of whom perished from yellow fever, typhoid fever and other infectious diseases, 266 men went down with the U.S.S. Maine. Pennsylvania was one of the largest contributors of men during the Spanish-American War with 17,000 Pennsylvanians serving in the Pennsylvania Volunteer forces and many more in the Federal army and navy. 🌿

Robin May is chair of the MGAHS Spanish-American War Committee and Docent at the Historical Society Museum.



10th Regiment Pennsylvania Voluntary Infantry, Camp Hastings 1898



This monument erected on site occupied by Governor's Troop, and Battle of Gettysburg, at Mount Gretna, Pa., during the Civil War, 1861. Demolished 1889, after purchase of 1 by private corporation. Hoping to raise fund at our Fourth Annual Re-Union to be held Mount Gretna, Pa., Saturday, June 27, 1909. 1 am, Young Fraternity.

George C. Feltz
President, Veterans Organization Governor's Troop

The "Governor's Troop" Monument, Pennsylvania Voluntary Cavalry. This monument is erected in 1898 on Conewago Hill, Mt. Gretna.

DISCOMFORT AT MT. GRETTA

Rain and Cold Causes Considerable Suffering Among the Troops.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS ARE PROGRESSING

Men Are Anxious to Pass So as to Be Mustered in.

GEN. LEE EXPECTED IN CAMP.

Camp Hastings, Mt. Gretna, Pa., May 7. —The National Guard of Pennsylvania is rapidly losing its identity as such. Batteries A and C yesterday became part of the Pennsylvania volunteers, and today the muster of the infantry into the United States service started with the Third regiment of the Third brigade. The order was issued last night. It calls for mustering of regiments in the inverse order of their seniority, the same system followed in the inspection.

The mustering in of the regiments will take place by companies. Each captain and his lieutenants will be mustered in with their men, not before or after. When one battalion of a regiment has been mustered in the major will be mustered; when six companies have been mustered in the turn of the lieutenant colonel will come, and the colonel will get his commission when the regiment is complete. The conflict of orders which has mud-

dered the men who lacked it. But through all the suffering and inconvenience one never hears a complaint. This is the most remarkable feature, and the most impressive manifestation possible of the true military spirit which animates Pennsylvania's citizen soldiers. It excites admiration and compels respect. Nobody who witnesses the hardships incident to this encampment and appreciates the spirit manifested by the men will ever again refer to the national guard of Pennsylvania as "tin soldiers." Hamilton.

MAY REVIEW THE TROOPS.

Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee Expected to Visit Camp Hastings.

Camp Hastings, Mt. Gretna, Pa., May 7. —(Special)—Capt. T. J. Keenan, Jr., member of Gen. John A. Wiley's staff, received a telegram to-day from Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, in which the distinguished soldier and consul general states that

Rowan, of company H, elected to the position. Several other vacancies in the regiment will be filled shortly. Several speak-easies near camp have been raided and the stock of liquor destroyed. The men were sent out of the camp.

Company F, Fourteenth regiment, reports the following promotions: Corporals H. R. Ludwick and W. C. Ziegler to be sergeants, and Privates Henry M. Crowe and Frank Metzger as corporals. Many of the boys are badly in need of shoes, and woolen stockings, and nothing from home is more appreciated. Sample.

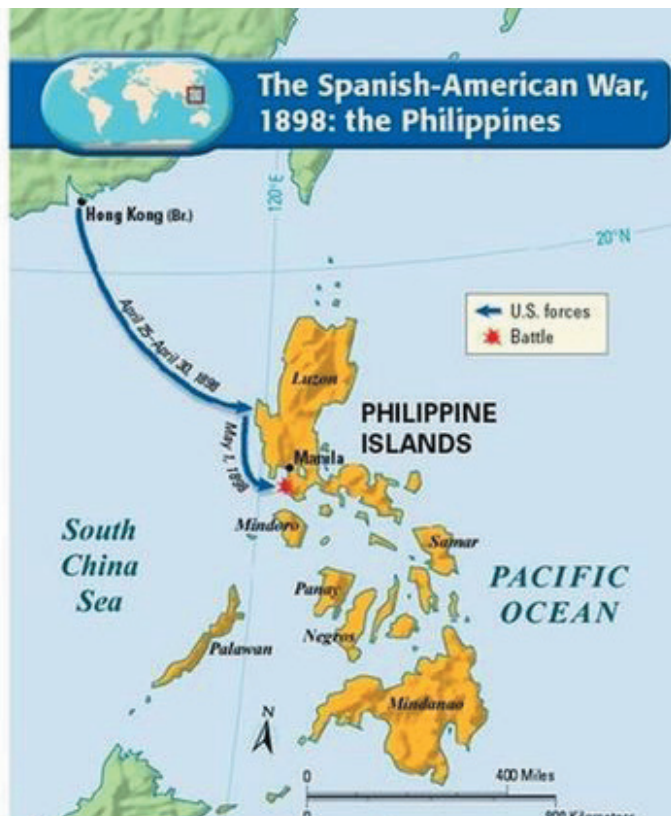
BREAD OF ALL NATIONS.

How the Staff of Life is Made Among Various Peoples.
From the Sanitary Record.

It is a curious and interesting study to compare the various materials which serve the different nations of the world as the basis of their bread. In this country, where good bread, made from spring and fall wheat flour, is within reach of all, rarely a thought is given to the fact that, after all, the inhabitants of only a small portion of the earth's surface enjoy such food. In the remotest part of Sweden the poor make and bake their rye bread twice a year and store the loaves away so that eventually they are as hard as bricks. Further north still bread made from barley and oats. In Lapland, oats, with the inner bark of the pine are used. The two together well ground and mixed are made into large flat cakes, cooked in a pan over a fire. In dreary Kamtschatka pine or birch bark by itself, well macerated, pounded and baked, frequently constitute the whole of the native bread food. The icelander scrapes the "iceland moss" off the rocks and grinds it into flour, which serve both for bread and puddings. In some parts of Siberia, China and other eastern countries a fairly palatable bread is made from buckwheat. In parts of Italy chestnuts are cooked, ground into meal and used for making bread. Durra, a variety of the millet, is used in the countries of India, Egypt, Arabia and Asia Minor, for making bread. Rice bread is the staple food of the Chinese, Japanese and a large portion of the inhabitants of India.

In Persia the bread is made from rice, flour and milk; it is called "lawash." The Persian oven is built in the ground, about the size of a barrel. The sides are smooth mason work. The fire is built at the bottom and kept burning until the walls or sides of the oven are thoroughly heated. Enough dough to form a sheet about one

Saturday, May 7, 1898 article from The Pittsburgh Press, courtesy of newspapers.com



The main theaters of action during the Spanish-American War were Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippine Islands. War was declared April 25, 1898 and a cease fire agreement was signed August 12, 1898. Maps courtesy of Sutori.com.

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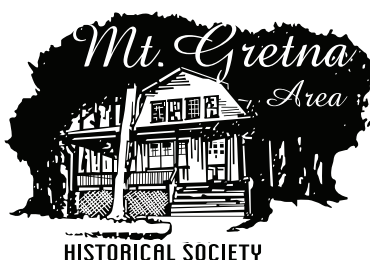
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The Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization and is registered as a charitable organization with the State of Pennsylvania.

THE MGAHS MUSEUM is open
Memorial Day weekend through Labor
Day weekend, 1-4pm, or by appointment.

We offer school and group tours, summer
walking tours, and research assistance on an
appointment basis throughout the year.

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Did You Know?

Robert Coleman directed workers to start building a dam across the Conewago Creek on June 10, 1885. The approximately 17-acre lake was created by spring of 1886. In addition to being used as a favorite swimming destination, ice was also taken from it.

From Our Board of Trustees

New Displays and Summer Events

by Sue Hostetter

WE ARE ALL GLAD that spring has arrived. With it comes the increase in activity here in Mount Gretna. The sound of last fall and winter's leaves and brush being collected, the sight of more folks out walking or working in their gardens, brochures for summer concerts and plays appearing once again and the lake filling back up tell us that the summer season is right around the corner.

The Mount Gretna Area Historical Society is no exception to this increase in activity. All winter, a faithful team of archiving volunteers has worked on Tuesday and Friday mornings to catalog the items in our vault and they are continuing to work on this never-ending task. We would love to have a few more volunteers who are willing to be trained in this important job. Please contact Pat Gibble at pegibble@gmail.com with questions.

Recently we had the building's top floor insulated which required that we pack up and move all the displays on that floor. With not much space to move around, it was a challenge but the project is finished and we are, as you will read in this issue, working on a new display with a carousel theme.

Two display cases, one with the story of photographer Luther Harpel's work and the other featuring the story of Max Hark and his daughter Ann, have been dismantled and will be used for a Spanish American War display.

We have formed an active Spanish American War Committee this winter. Working with Jim and Pat McAteer of Lebanon, we are excited to welcome representatives to the national convention of the Sons and Daughters of the Spanish

American War, with the convention being held in Lebanon this summer. Jim is past national President of the Sons and Pat is current President of the Daughters.


On Saturday, July 27th, the delegates will be touring the military monuments in Mount Gretna, visiting with the reenactors who will be holding an encampment here on Soldiers Field that weekend, visiting the Museum and holding their closing ceremony at the Spanish American War monument on Timber Road and Lakeview Drive.

Thank you to our departing board members whose terms have ended.

GLIN ATKINSON has been instrumental in helping to design our displays since 2007 and has added her time and talented artistic touch to our membership meetings, porch parties and programs.

PAT GIBBLE will continue her role in coordinating and educating our archiving volunteers. She is an experienced grant writer who will be working with us to acquire funding for archives.

DWAYNE HECKERT has helped with the 125th committee events, served as vice president, organized our most recent porch sale and helped with planning the release of our DVD. He will continue to be involved with our porch sale and in being our eBay lookout person.

Thank you for your support of our Historical Society. Please come visit us this summer! 

Sue Hostetter is Chair of the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society Board of Trustees.

On Our Wish List

Donations towards our Building and Grounds fund –

- Volunteers to serve on our Building and Grounds committee
- Storm windows to preserve our original windows and sashes.
- We are in need of a marine back-up battery for our sump pump. Last year's rains have impressed upon us the urgency of having a functioning sump pump if our electricity goes out.

Upcoming MGAHS Programs

June 15, July 13, August 10
History on the Porch

Join neighbors and friends on the Mount Gretna Historical Society porch for an informal question and answer session. Share photos and stories of our beloved community from Colebrook to Mount Gretna to Cornwall.



July 5
Our Pennsylvania Dutch U. S. Presidents.

How many U. S. Presidents had a Pennsylvania Dutch background? Jean-Paul Benowitz will share how Pennsylvania Dutch culture, traditions, and philosophy helped shape the domestic and foreign policies of U. S. Presidents. We will explore how Pennsylvania Dutch heritage influenced the leadership of several American Presidents.

July 6
History Walk:
Abraham Kauffman's Mt. Gretna.

Meet at firehouse parking lot. Led by Ron Hontz.

August 23
The Life of a Collier with Rick Brouse.

Hard work in the hills defined the life of colliers, men who made the charcoal that fueled the iron furnaces (such as Robert Coleman's in nearby Cornwall) of the 18th and 19th centuries. Iron was formed into farming tools and household goods, but it was the ammunition and cannon balls that made the iron furnaces critical during the Revolutionary War.



Photo courtesy of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Camp Hastings Comes to Life: July 27-28, 2019

STOP BY SOLDIERS FIELD on Saturday or Sunday, July 27th and 28th to see volunteer reenactors bring elements of Camp Hastings back to life. Camp Hastings at Mount Gretna was a point of muster for the National Guard of Pennsylvania from April through the Summer of 1898. While it was active, over 10,000 soldiers started their wartime service at Camp Hastings before going on to other assignments in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.

Throughout the weekend, you will see many elements of a soldier's daily routine such as roll calls, drill sessions, mess details, and inspections as they would have been carried out in 1898. There will also be talks each day highlighting the common soldier of the National Guard of Pennsylvania. Sponsored by Mount Gretna Area Historical Society and Chautauqua Summer Programs. Questions, call 717-964-1105. 🌿



Spring 2019 Programs

ON MARCH 24 at the Mount Gretna Fire Hall, the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society sponsored a late winter/early spring lecture about the Spanish American War (SAW) of 1898. Mount Gretna played an important role in this war. On April 25, 1898 Pennsylvania Governor Danial Hastings ordered over 10,000 soldiers of the Pennsylvania National Guard to report to the Mt. Gretna training camp eventually known as Camp Hastings.

The lecture was organized by Board members Robin May, Don Miller and the SAW committee of the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society. Jim McAteer and his wife Pat discussed the role the PA National Guard played in this war. Jim shared with the audience the impressive number of genealogical records he has assembled on these soldiers. Jim is the past president of the Sons of the Spanish American War Veterans. Pat is the National Fort Captain of the Daughters of the Spanish American War Veterans.

Luke Gammache, teacher and reenactor, and a group of fellow reenactors, dressed in uniform, had a display of SAW related equipment. Numerous display boards with historical pictures and information were provided by Robin May. Glin Atkinson organized light refreshments. Approximately 75 people attended the event. Thank you to Scott Carr and SWC Financial Advisors for their sponsorship of this event. 🌿



Top right: Luke Gammache, volunteer reenactor talks about the Mt. Gretna Soldiers' Field encampment in which he will be participating in on July 27 & 28.

At right, items from the PA National Guard brought in by reenactors



So You Think You Know Mount Gretna??

TRIVIA AFICIONADOS gathered at the Fire Hall on Sunday, April 7th to test their knowledge of Mount Gretna trivia. Four segments of ten questions which included dates, Campmeeting and Chautauqua, buildings and miscellaneous tested participants' knowledge. The Campmeeting Playground Pals team of Faye Adams, Barbara Berry and Jack and Jane Anderson were the lucky winners but rumor has it that at least one member studied ahead of time!

Organized by Board members Chic Rhoads and Marcie Lloyd, sample questions included:

The Roller Rink building was never used as:

- A. PA National Guard Headquarters
- B. Farmers Encampment
- C. Dance Hall
- D. Movie Theater

Which of the following was NOT a former use of the current library?

- A. Fire Engine Garage
- B. Antiques Store
- C. Notions Store
- D. Flower and plant store

Thanks to these businesses and organizations who provided prizes to contestants:

Gretna Music • Gretna Theater • Jigger Shop • Zimmerman's Hardware • Hideaway • Porch and Pantry • Timbers Restaurant and Dinner Theater • Mt. Gretna Pizzeria • Country Store (Mount Joy) • Giant (Mount Joy) 🌿



At left: Winners of trivia: Campmeeting Playground Pals from left, Faye Adams, Barbara Berry, non-team member/organizer Chic Rhoads, Jack and Jane Anderson

Below: Noah (our tech team) operates the laptop with the trivia questions.



Answer to Question 1: A. Answer to Question 2: D

MGAHS Museum to Introduce Carousel Exhibit

THIS SPRING, the Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society is installing a new exhibit on the historic carousels of Mt. Gretna. Located in Robert H. Coleman's Mt. Gretna Park and in Abraham L. Kauffman's Laurel Park, four different carousels provided enjoyment to thousands during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

While the rides themselves were dismantled and sold long ago, the Historical Society has assembled many photographs, postcards, and depictions of the carousels as part of the new display. In what is certain to become a highlight for museum visitors, the new exhibit will

prominently display three antique carousel animals—a deer, an elk, and a zebra. The zebra and deer have recently been acquired by the Historical Society.

The animals will be showcased alongside two carousel backboards from the Laurel Park carousel. Envisioned as a welcoming space in which visitors can engage in the colorful history of leisure time in Mt. Gretna, the exhibit will occupy a prominent space on the museum's second floor. MGAHS is excited to welcome members and visitors to the museum and this exhibit beginning Memorial Day weekend. 🌸



Don't Miss it...

Our Annual MGAHS Membership Meeting and Porch Party:

Tuesday, June 4th, 6-7pm

at the Hall of Philosophy (next to the Jigger Shop). Get an early bird tour of the museum and of our two new displays.

Door prizes to be given.

Light refreshments served.

Please join us!

THEN *and* NOW

When visitors came to Mount Gretna via the Cornwall Lebanon railroad, the saying was "I'll meet you at the fountain." That fountain can still be found today along the spur trail leading to the Mt. Gretna access of the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail, now a National Recreation Trail.

Photos courtesy of the Mt. Gretna Historical Society and Pat Allwein.



Our "Then and Now" feature was written by Pat Allwein, a Mt. Gretna resident and board member of the Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society.



Clean Out Those Attics and Closets and Bring Your Treasures to MGAHS for Review

Mark Your Calendar for Donation Events at
The Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society Museum

Saturday, June 8 & Saturday, July 13, 2019
From 12 noon to 2:00 PM

Do you have documents, pictures, postcards, maps, souvenirs, artifacts, or other items having to do with and which help to tell the story and history of Mt. Gretna, Colebrook, Cornwall, or the Coleman Family? You can donate items for preservation to our Museum and Library

Sorry, we cannot accept furniture because of limited storage space.

Questions? Call or Email Pat Gibble at

[717-304-8825](tel:717-304-8825)

pegibble@gmail.com

Thank You Thank You

BUSINESS MEMBERS (as of May 31, 2019)

We appreciate our business members. We ask you to support them and thank them for their support.

Ames Sales & Service
Atkinson Design
Chef on the Go
Feather & Feather, P.C.
Gretna Graphics
Hershey Psychological Services
Hickey Architects Inc.
Jigger Shop
Jonestown Bank & Trust
Mt. Gretna Lake & Beach
Penn Realty
SWC Financial Advisors
Taylor Miller Pipe Orgaon Co.
Timbers Dinner Theatre

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

NEW MEMBERS (September 2018 -May 2019)

Welcome to these new members! Members are the backbone of our Society. We appreciate your support through your dues and your many volunteer hours.

Alan & Cathy Olson
Chris Sides
Greg Sides
Michael Schmitt
Kristin Kissell
Jim Abels
John Wentling


Thank You

HOW TO LEAVE A LEGACY GIFT

IMAGINE what Robert Coleman would think if he could see Mount Gretna today? Many of our greatest community assets exist because someone thought it important enough to bequeath funds to develop and sustain them.

For more information on leaving a legacy gift to the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society, contact us (info@mtgretnahistory.org) or call us at (717) 964-1105.

Consultation with a legal or financial adviser can help you to take advantage of any savings in inheritance tax.

Our Mount Gretna Area Historical Society representative will help you through the process and the details. 



Join The Mount Gretna Area Historical Society and receive

- * *Gretna Chronicles* newsletters
- * Notice of all MGAHS events
- * Discounts on events, books, DVDs and commemorative items

Yes, I want to support the Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society

- ☐ \$20 Individual Membership ☐ \$30 Family Membership
☐ \$75 Business Membership

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

- ☐ Check enclosed
(Payable to: Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society,)

- ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Mail completed form to: The Mount Gretna Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 362, Mt. Gretna, PA 17064



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Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support MGAHS every time you shop, at no cost to you. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) you can select Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society as your favorite charitable organization, before shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and donate a portion of the price of your eligible purchases to your selected charity. Then, for every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchase to MGAHS. This applies to your wish list, wedding or baby registries, and shopping cart items.

Remember, always start at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. 

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