



Civil War Dance News

July-August 2018

*“When you get the choice to sit it out or dance . . .
We hope you Dance!”*

GNMP MEMORIAL DAY DANCING

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 28, the Victorian Dance Ensemble returned to the Gettysburg National Military Park for our traditional demonstration 1860s dancing and display of period civilian artifacts, including jewelry, fans, dance cards, photographs, illustrated newspapers depicting dancing during the Civil War, and some very rare artifacts from the “Return of the Pennsylvania Colors Ceremony” in Philadelphia on July 4, 1866. We also added a new display this year of Grand Army of the Republic memorabilia. We had standing room only audiences for our two demonstrations as we performed Soldier’s Joy, Lancer’s Quadrille, Money Musk Reel, Spanish Waltz and German Waltz. We then invited visitors to come out and learn Soldier’s Joy and the Snowball Reel. The room was filled with smiles and laughter as the park visitors moved through the formations. Many asked to pose for pictures with our dancers afterwards and, hopefully, will have great memories of their visit to Gettysburg. The event was sponsored by the Gettysburg Foundation.



GUNS OF GETTYSBURG DISPLAY

On May 26, the "Ordnance Detachment" of the Civil War Dance Foundation presented its always popular display of original Civil War weapons at the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center. The most common weapons used in the Civil War and some oddities were on display. Included in the exhibit were pre-war weapons that were in arsenals when the war started, imported arms from Britain, Austria and France, the U.S. rifle musket series (M1855, M1861, M1861 Special, and M1863), various breechloaders, handguns, and edged weapons. The artifacts were available for close inspection and even "light handling" by museum visitors. It was a rare opportunity for guests to actually touch a piece of American history and see how it worked. The display was sponsored by the Gettysburg Foundation.



HAY CREEK WEDDING

On Saturday, June 16, part of the Victorian Dance Ensemble travelled to the Joanna Furnace Historic Site near Morgantown, Pa., to participate in a recreation of the Ironmaster's Wedding in 1868. Sponsored by the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association, the event marked the 150th anniversary of the marriage of Ella Jane Grubb to Col. L. Heber Smith, the last ironmaster of the furnace. Over 150 guests attended the event, some in period attire. Members of the wedding party were portrayed by actors from Fecho Productions and Genesis Theatre, music for the wedding ceremony and the ball was played by Beck's Brass Band, the civilian impression of the Philadelphia Brigade Band. The VDE led the after dinner dancing.



ALLEN SCHOOL CIVIL WAR DAY

On Friday, May 18, the CWDF again participated in Allen Middle School's Annual Civil War Day. The program runs after school from 5PM to 7PM, and students move among several stations and learn about various aspects of the Civil War. We provided dance instruction and clothing try-on. Most of the girls were eager to try on corsets, hoops, dresses and bonnets. Some even kept them on for the dancing. This year, we demonstrated the Lancer's Quadrille for the students and taught them Soldier's Joy and the Snowball Reel.



GETTYSBURG CAMPGROUND DANCE

For the 24th year, the Victorian Dance Ensemble returned to the Gettysburg Campground to conduct a dance for the campers on Friday, June 1. In 1995, this was the VDE's first "gig" and we are still having fun with the campers. The temperatures were in the 80s, with high humidity, so it was a little warm. As always, we had returning campers who were familiar with the dances and first time novices. This year, we had a number of really young dancers.



STAUNTON VICTORIAN DANCE DEMO

On Saturday, June 9, we travelled to Staunton, Virginia, to take part in "A Victorian Evening in the Queen City." There were numerous activities and displays throughout the town. We were invited to present an outdoor Victorian dance demonstration but as our performance time approached, the skies darkened and thunder was heard. Soon rain was falling and it looked like our dancing would be cancelled. Fortunately, the Co-Art Gallery generously opened its doors to us and we danced inside. It was a little crowded, but we were able to demonstrate Soldier's Joy, Lancer's Quadrille, Spanish Waltz and German Waltz. The audience then joined us and learned Soldier's Joy.



Would you like to join in the fun?

The Civil War Dance Foundation is looking for new dancers to assist with our demonstrations and balls..

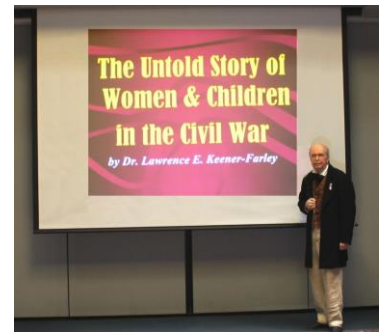
No dance experience is required.

We will train you and provide advice on attire.

For more information, email contact@civilwardance.org

HARRISBURG AREA CIVIL WAR DAYS

On June 23 and 24, we participated in Civil War Days in the Harrisburg Area. On Saturday various programs were conducted at the National Civil War Museum, including our dance demonstration and audience participation (top row), an artillery demonstration by Thompson's Battery, music by Steve & Lisa Ball, and a lecture by our own dance master, Larry Keener-Farley (middle row). There was also a panel discussion of Civil War medicine and a presentation on Harriet Tubman. On Sunday, we presented a dance demonstration at the Cumberland County Historical Society (bottom row). Throughout the weekend other programs were presented at the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Camp Curtin Historical Society, Historical Society of Dauphin County, and the Pennsylvania Capitol Preservation Committee's Flag Conservation Facility.



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**Victorian Dance Ensemble
Performing Troupe of the
Civil War Dance
Foundation**
Established 1995

Recreating the grace and
elegance of a bygone era

Dance Demonstrations,
Classes & Balls

Artifact Displays, Fashion
Shows & Clothing Try-On

Lectures & Power Point
Presentations



**2016 President's
Volunteer Service
Gold Award**



CIVIL WAR TRUST
Saving America's Civil War Battlefields

**2011 Reenactment
Unit of the Year**

*Over \$260,000.00
raised for preservation
and education projects
since 2001*

Website:

www.civilwardance.org

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717-732-5330

The Civil War Dance News is a
bi-monthly email newsletter to
update dancers, supporters,
event sponsors and the media
about the activities of the
Civil War Dance Foundation.

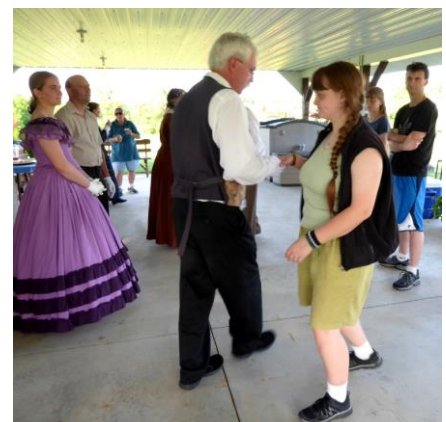
FAIRFAX MUSEUM DANCE

On Sunday, June 3, we conducted three dance sessions for Civil War Days at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum in Virginia. We invited museum visitors to join us to learn some of the popular dances of the 1860s. Unfortunately, rain kept the visitation down, but the visitors who did attend really seemed to enjoy the dancing. Several of the Union reenactors from the 142nd Pennsylvania Volunteers encamped around the museum also came in to enjoy one of the most common forms of active entertainment during the Civil War. This was our third year participating in this annual event.



SHIPPENSBURG DANCE

The Local Gathering, a non-profit coffee house in Shippensburg, hosted a Victorian-Civil War Era Dance as a fundraiser on June 16. This was our fourth year for the event, which was held in a picnic pavilion. The shade made for a pleasant evening as dancers in period and modern attire whirled around the dance floor.



★ UPCOMING EVENTS ★

Some events are free while others charge an admission fee. Some events require tickets to be ordered in advance while others sell tickets at the door. Always check with event sponsors about tickets and attire before planning to attend an event. Some event sponsors have not yet posted details. Dance demonstrations present typical dances of the mid-19th century to audiences and they usually conclude with an audience participation dance.

Information will be posted on sponsor websites closer to the event.

July 14 **Saturday** **2:00-3:00PM** **Public, Free**
154TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF FORT STEVENS - DANCE DEMO
Washington, DC Recorded Music
See <https://www.dccivilwarforts.org/>

July 20 **Friday** **7:00-9:30PM** **Public, Admission Fee**
CHAMBERSBURG 1864 CIVIL WAR BALL AT ALLISON-ANTRIM MUSEUM
Greencastle, PA Recorded Music
See www.eventbrite.com/e/1864-civil-war-ball-july-20-2018-tickets-46978545093?aff=eac2

August 5 **Sunday** **2:00-4:00PM** **Private Event**
CWDF DANCE REHEARSAL

August 10 **Friday** **8:30-10:00PM** **Private Event**
GETTYSBURG CAMPGROUND DANCE
Gettysburg, PA Recorded Music

August 11 **Saturday** **Times TBA** **Public, Free**
GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK MUSIC MUSTER DANCE DEMOS
Gettysburg, PA Music by Susquehanna Travellers
See www.nps.gov/gett/index.htm

August 24 **Friday** **9:00-11:00PM** **Public, Free**
MANASSAS DANCE THROUGH HISTORY BALL – DANCE DEMOS
Manassas, VA Music by Susquehanna Travellers
See <http://www.manassascity.org/211/Manassas-Museum-System>

LOOKING AHEAD

NATIONAL CIVIL WAR BALL

8:00PM, Saturday, November 17, Eisenhower Hotel, 2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg
Music by the Philadelphia Brigade Band ★ Dancing led by the Civil War Dance Foundation
Original and Official Ball of Remembrance Day - Benefits Gettysburg National Military Park

Tickets are \$20 per person if purchased in advance, \$25 at the door.

To purchase tickets, make check out to "SVR Remembrance Day Ball" and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for tickets. Mail to:

Brig. Gen. Henry E. Shaw, Jr., 27 Griswold Street, Delaware, OH 43015-1716

Email: hshaw@columbus.rr.com

CIVIL WAR BALL

7:00 to 9:30PM, Friday, July 20

Allison-Antrim Museum

365 South Ridge Avenue, Greencastle, Pa. 17255



Dancing led by the Victorian Dance Ensemble

All dances will be demonstrated and taught. No dance experience required.

Period attire recommended but not required.

Tickets: \$15 Single, \$25 Couple



The event will be held in a reconstructed Civil-War era German bank barn. Participants may dress in Civil War attire, contemporary formal attire, or contemporary business attire. Flat shoes are recommended for ladies because of the type of dancing.

For information, visit

www.greencastlemuseum.org

Tickets may be purchased at the door,
by mail or through

www.eventbrite.com/e/1864-civil-war-ball-july-20-2018-tickets-46978545093?aff=eac2