

St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church 269 South Washington Street

In 1837, Daniel Alexander Payne came to Gettysburg as the first African-American student to attend the Lutheran Theological Seminary. While he was forced to stop his studies at the seminary because of failing eyesight, Payne would later go on to become a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the president of Wilberforce University.



While in Gettysburg, Payne was granted permission to use a building on the Pennsylvania College campus to hold religious meetings and Sunday school for 32 African American children. As Payne remembered, "So gathering in all the colored children in the neighborhood, I opened the school, having for teachers such persons as I could obtain from the village and the seminary." Payne's meeting led to a revival of religious spirit among Gettysburg's African-American community and the desire for an African Methodist Episcopal church in the town.

In February 1841, five members of St. Paul's founded the Slaves' Refuge Society with a resolution that proclaimed: "We feel it our indispensable duty to assist such of our brethren as shall come among us for the purpose of liberating themselves, and to raise all the means in our power to effect our object, which is to give liberty to our brethren groaning under the tyrannical yoke of oppression."

The original St. Paul's Church building (formerly the Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church) was constructed in 1840 and was a wooden frame structure located on the corner of Long Lane and Breckenridge Street (today the site of the New Life Outreach Ministries, also in *Olde Getty Place*). Many organizations met at the location, which also housed a library. After the battle, two dead Confederate soldiers were buried in the churchyard.

Due to a growing African-American community, in 1878 the trustees of St. Paul raised funds to build the present church on the corner of Washington and Breckenridge Streets. The cornerstone was laid on June 27, 1884. The current structure was built in 1917 and is the third site for St. Paul's A.M.E. Church. St. Paul continues to serve as the center of the African-American community in Gettysburg, a meeting place for both its members and other local groups and organizations.

of the 127th USCT. Gooden, an African American, enlisted on August 26, 1864 in nearby Carlisle. He spent most of his service guarding military posts and herding cattle in Texas. He returned to Carlisle and died in 1876. He is one of only two veterans of the USCT buried in this cemetery. The laws and customs of the time meant that National Cemetery was intended only for white soldiers. There were no black soldiers at the battle of Gettysburg, but many African Americans served both armies as cooks, wagon drivers or servants. (The second USCT veteran buried in this cemetery is Charles Parker of the 3rd USCT, who is buried in the post-war burials section. He enlisted at 17, was wounded in the Battle of Gainesville, Florida, and died in 1876. He was originally buried in the Yellow Hill Cemetery in nearby Biglerville, Pennsylvania, but was reinterred in the National Cemetery in 1936.)

Further along the walkway is the Soldiers' National Monument. Experts have determined that the site from which Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address was between this monument and the private mausoleum in the Evergreen Cemetery on the other side of the iron fence.

A crowd of approximately 15,000 people turned out to see Lincoln that day. It is not known for certain whether there were any African Americans in attendance. Having completed your tour of *Olde Getty Place*, you may wish to consider the words President Lincoln spoke here at Gettysburg and contemplate whether they had any special meaning to those residents of Gettysburg, white and African American, who had lived through so much that summer and fall of 1863:

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate – we cannot consecrate – we cannot hallow – this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

The Lincoln Cemetery Long Lane

The main Confederate battle line ran along Long Lane here, connecting the soldiers in the fields south of town with those positioned in the town itself.



During the Civil War many African Americans wanted to fight to help preserve the Union, especially after President Abraham Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation in the fall of 1862, which authorized African-American service in the United States army. Frederick Douglass recognized the symbolic importance of this act in saying: "Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters 'US,' let him get an eagle on his button and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pockets and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship in the United States." And while some 180,000 African Americans served in the USCT by the end of the war, laws and customs still required that blacks be buried separately from whites. Gettysburg's first "colored" cemetery in Gettysburg was established in 1828 on the east side of town on York Street. In 1867, after the Civil War, the Sons of Good Will (a local African-American organization) purchased land on this site to serve as a second "colored" graveyard. Since the Soldiers' National Cemetery (the site of Abraham Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address) was segregated, forty-two local black veterans of the USCT were buried in the York Street Cemetery. Of these, six were wounded in battle, two died of disease, and several others were hospitalized during their service. Later, the York Street Cemetery closed, and the bodies were possibly reinterred here. There are currently 400 people buried in the Lincoln Cemetery, including Richard Monroe, a USCT veteran. The site of his former home is on this tour.

THE GETTYSBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY

As you approach Steinwehr Avenue from South Washington Street, Cemetery Hill rises to your front.

Cemetery Hill was the central point of the Union position during the Battle of Gettysburg. A Confederate assault was launched against the part of the hill on the far side of the Baltimore Pike (known as East Cemetery Hill) on the evening of July 2nd, while Pickett's Charge crashed against the western slopes of Cemetery Hill on July 3rd.

The western portion of the hill was home to a small community of African Americans in 1863. Most notable among these was Abraham Brien, a descendent of Sydney O'Brien who was once a slave in Gettysburg. Brien was a 61-year-old farmer who lived on a 12-acre farm on Cemetery Ridge on which he grew wheat, barley, hay and apples. He and his wife raised five children on the farm, which they were forced to flee in June as Confederates approached. Perhaps nowhere on the Gettysburg battlefield did the fury of war

Agricultural Hall

Site of the former Agricultural Hall

Frederick Douglass, an outstanding lecturer, was a slave from Talbot, MD. He was driven by the belief that education was necessary for African Americans to improve their lives. He even advocated desegregation of schools. Douglass spoke to President Abraham Lincoln about the treatment of black soldiers in 1863, and to President Andrew Johnson about black suffrage.

Frederick Douglass spent his life working for human rights. He was an abolitionist, women's suffragist, speaker, editor, author, reformer and statesmen. He is a prominent figure in United States history and African-American history. He believed that all people were equal, regardless of color, sex, or immigration status.

Frederick Douglass spoke here at the Agricultural Hall. In 1996 the Frederick Douglass Townhouses were built as an affordable housing project.

**The site of the Franklin Street "Colored" School 1884 – 1932
Corner of West High and Franklin Streets**

After the State of Pennsylvania began funding public education in 1834, various public schools began to appear in the Gettysburg area. The first "colored school" in Gettysburg was established at 201 North Washington Street, with Elizabeth Keetch serving as the first teacher, from 1834 to 1839. "J. Sibbs, a colored man" was hired to succeed her and the school was moved to St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church. At the time of the Civil War, forty-six percent of the town's African-American children were enrolled at the school, whose curriculum emphasized the reading and mathematical skills that would be needed for economic advancement. The Franklin Street "Colored" School opened here in 1884. Lloyd F.A. Watts, a veteran of the USCT, returned to Gettysburg after the war and became the first black teacher at the school. Salome Myers Stewart, whose house is also on this tour, was a teacher and janitress at this school from 1884 to 1900.

For more information on *Olde Getty Place*, contact
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The cover photo of John "Jack" Hopkins is provided courtesy of Special Collections, Musselman Library, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

rage more severe than at the Brien farm; after the battle, Brien filed a claim for \$570 in damages. He received only fifteen dollars from the government. That was the value of the hay consumed by Union horses and the only damage that could be directly traced to the Union army.

At least two tenant houses stood on the Brien property, bordering the Emmitsburg Road. In one lived Alfred Palm a 25-year-old brickmaker, and Margaret Divit, also known as Mag Palm, and their one-year-old son Joseph. Mag listed in the census as a "Mistress-Harlot" perhaps an indication of disapproval about her life with Alfred out of wedlock. According to a well-known story, she was the intended victim of an alleged pre-war raid by Marylanders looking to capture African Americans in Pennsylvania and return them to slavery. A surviving account states that:

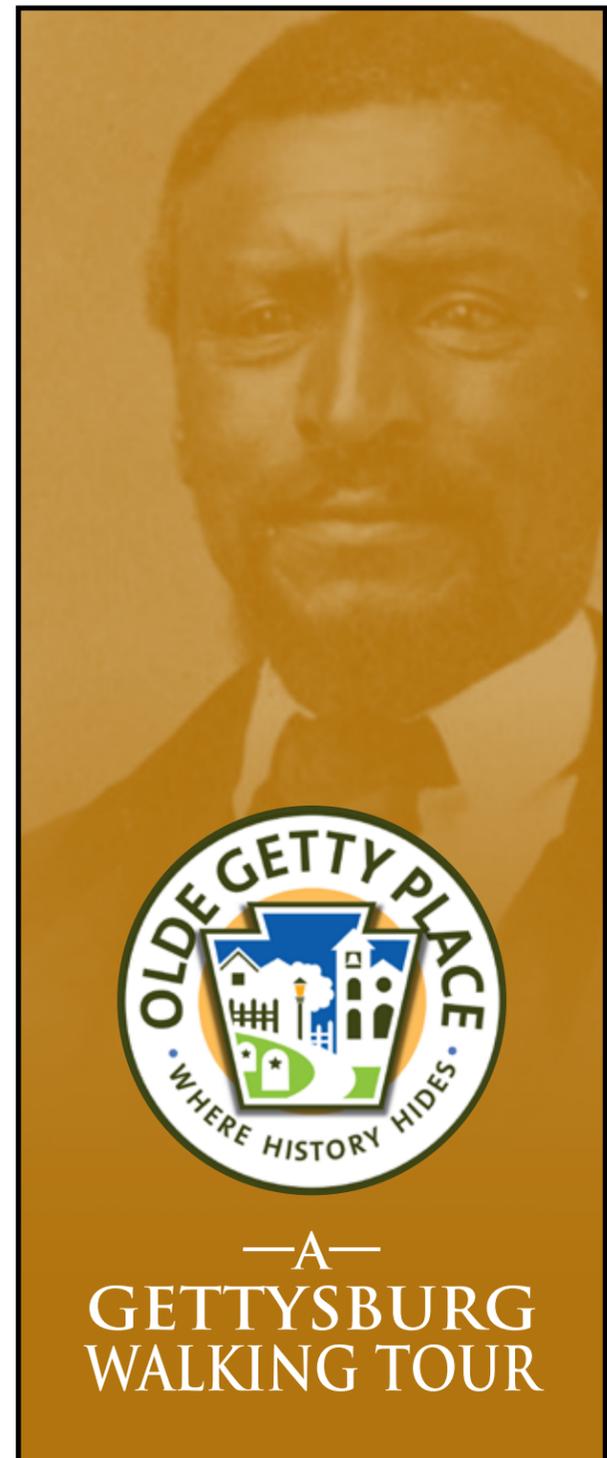
These men succeeded in tying Mag's hands...She was fighting them as best as she could with her hands tied. She would attempt to slow them and succeeded in one instance in catching [an attacker's] thumb in her mouth, biting it off.

Lincoln's processional route to the cemetery on November 19, 1863, would have passed from the center of town on Baltimore Street to its intersection with the Emmitsburg Road (today's Steinwehr Avenue) one block to your left. Following the turn on to the Emmitsburg Road, Lincoln proceeded this one block to the Taneytown Road, directly in front of you. He entered the cemetery through its west gate, somewhere along Taneytown Road.

The idea for the National Cemetery was conceived out of the destruction wrought by the battle. Thousands of shallow graves littered the countryside around Gettysburg. Samuel Weaver, who had the contract from the government to exhume the bodies of the Union dead and reinter them in the National Cemetery, subcontracted Basil Biggs to assist in the removal of the bodies. Biggs was an African-American farmer and veterinarian who was born in Maryland in 1819 and moved to Pennsylvania in the 1840s so his children could receive an education. He was reported to be active in the Underground Railroad. He lived as a tenant farmer at the John Crawford farm, about two miles west of the National Cemetery. This was the scene of a major Confederate hospital after the battle, and Biggs returned home to find 45 Confederate bodies buried on the land he farmed, and he filed a claim for \$1,505 dollars in damages.

After the war, Biggs purchased a farm of his own, possibly with the money he made burying the dead in the cemetery in which you now stand.

As you continue on your walk you will begin to approach the graves of the Union casualties of the battle. Immediately on your left will be the graves of United States Regulars. Most of the men who fought at Gettysburg belonged to volunteer regiments organized by the states. The United States Regulars comprised the regular army of the American government. Buried in this section is Henry Gooden



Welcome to Olde Getty Place....Where History Hides

A WALKING TOUR

Gettysburg was a town of 2,400 inhabitants at the time of the great battle in 1863. Of this number approximately 200 were African Americans. Living only a few miles from the Mason-Dixon Line, Gettysburg's black residents were often in fear of slave raiders, who would enter Pennsylvania in search of fugitive slaves; however, little discretion was used in determining who was free and who was a runaway. Still, many African Americans from Maryland and Virginia continued to move to Gettysburg because of the opportunities for work and employment for their children. The outbreak of the Civil War brought the danger of Confederate invasion and the fear that an invading Southern army would capture African Americans to sell into slavery. When Robert E. Lee's army crossed the Potomac in 1862 and again during the Gettysburg Campaign in 1863, many African Americans strapped their belongings onto their backs and fled. While the Confederate invasions were turned back, many of these refugees never returned to town, instead settling in cities such as Harrisburg and Philadelphia, which offered employment with greater security. Records from the fall of 1863 indicate that there were 64 African Americans living in Gettysburg. Many of those who did return to Gettysburg lived in this neighborhood. The streets you will walk on this tour were the scene of fighting throughout the Battle of Gettysburg. Union forces retreated through here on July 1st, the first day of the battle, as they moved to the high ground of Cemetery Hill. For the next two days, sharpshooters from both armies took aim at targets across these streets. When the armies left, many of the larger structures in this area served as hospitals.

Points of Historic Interest in Olde Getty Place

Log House

138 West Middle Street

This is a wonderful example of a typical residential log structure constructed in the early days of Gettysburg. This property is one of the many in town that were bought and sold by Thaddeus Stevens as investment ventures. Stevens was a prominent abolitionist who represented Pennsylvania in the United States Congress for many years. He was also a Gettysburg lawyer and businessman and an early trustee of Pennsylvania (now Gettysburg) College. In 1863, this was the home of Adam Shumaker.



The James and Catherine Foster House

155 South Washington Street

In 1863 this was the home of James and Catherine Foster and their daughter, Catherine. When Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia invaded Pennsylvania, rumors began flying about the approaching Confederate army. Catherine would later recall that "the suspense grew intolerable to which the battle itself proved a relief."



When fighting broke out on July 1st, Catherine stood outside serving water to Union troops. The roof of the porch on which she was standing was demolished by an artillery shell and she fell. She saw the last Union soldiers on the retreat hurrying down Washington Street, under fire, ducking into "every nook and crook." Catherine took a Lieutenant Wilcox into her home and gave him civilian clothing and he avoided capture by the rebels.

The Confederates occupied the town following the first day's battle. Not long after Lieutenant Wilcox had entered the house and taken shelter, a Confederate officer also entered and asked: "Are there any Yankees here?" Miss Foster replied: "We are all here. Suppose you call us all 'Yankees'." Satisfied with her answer, the officer departed without further incident.

Elizabeth Salome Myers Stewart Home

55 West High Street

Elizabeth Salome "Sallie" Myers was a school teacher, who still lived with her family when the Battle of Gettysburg began. She had a long teaching career in Gettysburg, working at the public school on High Street at the time of the battle. She would serve as the assistant principal of this school. Later she worked at the "colored schools" in town, including the Franklin School that is a stop on this tour. She was employed by the Gettysburg Public School System as an assistant to the principal at the Franklin Street "Colored" School.

Her father was a Justice of the Peace. Their home at 55 West High Street in Gettysburg bordered the black section of town. On the night of June 15, 1863, Myers recorded in her diary, "the Darkies made such a racket up and down by our house that we could not sleep." What Myers heard were many of Gettysburg's African-American families preparing to flee the town ahead of Lee's army, which that day began its crossing of the Potomac River.

On July 1st, as fighting raged in the streets of Gettysburg, Sallie took shelter in her cellar. She recalled, "As we were looking out one of the cellar windows we saw some of our men who'd been taken prisoners, and they were standing so near that we spoke to them. They said they expected to be sent off South and wished we would write to their home people. Then, one after the other, they gave us their names and addresses of the persons to whom we were to write."



When the battle erupted, wounded soldiers began streaming past the Stewart House, and into the field hospital at the nearby St. Francis Xavier Church. Sallie volunteered as a nurse, and for the next few weeks spent almost all her waking hours nursing the wounded in the church as they lay on the pews and on the floor. She also served as a nurse at the large hospital established at the Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Of the first day of the battle Sallie later remembered,

Sgt. [Alexander] Stewart [149th Pennsylvania Infantry] was the first wounded man brought into our house, but others followed, and it was used in connection with and under the same control as the two churches [St. Francis and the Presbyterian Church]....We had twelve in all, and two deaths. The sight of blood never again affected me and I was among wounded and dying men day and night.

Sergeant Stewart died of his wounds on July 6th. After the battle, his widow and brother visited Sallie Myers to express their thanks for the care she provided. Five years later, Sallie married Alexander's brother Henry.

After her death in 1922, she was buried in Evergreen Cemetery on Cemetery Hill in Gettysburg.

Saint Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church

43 West High Street

This second church building of Gettysburg's Catholic congregation was consecrated in 1853. At the time of the battle, the building had a brick exterior and was 28 feet high to the eaves, with three plain, clear glass windows with arches at the top. It featured 64 pews made of white pine, each with a door on the aisle.

Saint Francis Xavier served as a major hospital facility during and after the battle, housing 250 wounded soldiers. An operating table was located just inside the main entrance to allow daylight for the surgeon during operations. Local resident Adam Errter remembered that Union and Confederate doctors worked in this building simultaneously, treating the wounded of both the Blue and the Gray. Boards were laid over the pews for the wounded to lie on, because the pews were too narrow to accommodate a soldier. A member of the parish wrote that every other pew was removed to provide greater access to the wounded. Straw was originally used to provide cushioning for those needing care. The church suffered over \$1,000 worth of damage as a result of the battle and its aftermath.

The present granite façade was added in the 1920s. Inside is a wonderful stained glass window depicting the days following the battle; the window features the Sisters of Charity, who arrived in Gettysburg from their convent in nearby Emmitsburg, Maryland, to help tend the wounded. Note the two historical plaques on the front façade of the church.

The Gettysburg Female Institute Building

66-68 West High Street

Before public education was funded in Pennsylvania, most schools were established through private efforts. The Gettysburg Academy, built in 1813-14, was the first publicly funded school in Adams County. After the Academy developed financial difficulties, the building became the birthplace of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (1826) and Pennsylvania (Gettysburg) College (1832). At the time of the battle, the structure housed the Gettysburg Female Institute, operated by Mrs. Rebecca Eyster. Class was in session when Jubal Early's



Confederate division arrived in town on June 26th. One of Eyster's students, Tillie Pierce, later remembered, "Rushing to the door, and standing on the front portico, we beheld in the direction of the Theological Seminary, a dark, dense mass, moving towards town." She also remembered Rebecca Eyster telling the students, "Children, run home as quickly as you can."

An artillery shell embedded in the building's 2nd story north wall bears silent witness to the fact that for much of the battle the town was in the crosshairs of the Union and Confederate armies. The area in which you are walking, the southern portion of town, was the scene of significant sharpshooter activities; a few blocks from here Jennie Wade was killed, the only civilian to die in the battle. On July 3rd, the final day of the battle, a massive cannonade echoed across the battlefield. Confederate artillery located on Oak and Seminary Ridges north and west of town fired over the town at Union positions to the south. Several structures in town still show remnants of artillery shells. Like many other structures in Gettysburg, Rebecca Eyster's school served as a hospital after the battle. She continued to operate a young women's academy here through the 1870's. Around 1892, the property was sold to a Gettysburg attorney who turned the building into a private residence, which it remains today.

The John "Jack" Hopkins House

219 South Washington Street

From 1851 until his death in 1868 at age 62, John "Jack" Hopkins owned this dwelling. His wife Julia lived here until her death in 1891. John Hopkins served as a janitor at Pennsylvania (now Gettysburg) College beginning in 1847. As part of his compensation, Hopkins was provided with a home on the college campus, and so he rented out this home. Known as "Jack the Janitor," he was immensely popular with the students and faculty alike, as attested to by the presence of the entire college staff and student body at his funeral.



Hopkins is reported to have worked closely to help runaway slaves passing through Gettysburg. His status as a leader in the town's African-American community is confirmed through a report from the *Star and Sentinel* newspaper about a "Grand Fancy Ball given at the residence of John Hopkins on July 4, 1860." Like most of Gettysburg's approximately 200 African-American citizens, the Hopkins family probably fled town prior to the battle to avoid capture by the Confederates. The June 30th meeting of the College's Board of Trustees resolved that "Mr. Garber be directed to ring the College bell in the absence of the janitor". His home on the college campus was looted by the Confederates. Following the battle, Hopkins filed a claim with the state government for damages in amount of \$345.35 incurred during the Confederate occupation.

The experience of the Confederate occupation may have been a motivation for his son, John Edward, to join the 25th United States Colored Troops (USCT) shortly after the battle and serve to the war's end.

Jack continued on as the college's janitor until his death in 1868 at which point his widow Julia moved into this house. "Jack" and his family are buried in the Lincoln Cemetery.

Diggs-Monroe Property

228-234 South Washington Street

This was the home of some prominent free black families of Gettysburg during the middle 19th century, including Clara Diggs, Elizabeth Butler and Richard Monroe, who moved here after the war. A free Black woman, Diggs fled her South Washington Street home before the battle to escape the advancing Confederate army. Monroe served with Company B of the 32nd USCT during the war, and is buried in Lincoln Cemetery. Additionally, the property is the site of a former blacksmith shop, which also dates back to the middle of the 19th century. An archeological dig in 2006 at this location turned up thousands of artifacts dating back to the Civil War.

The Jennie Wade Home

49-51 Breckenridge Street

This was one of the first houses to be built on Breckenridge Street. Originally rectangular in design, a careful observation reveals a series of additions that have been added over the past 150 years.

In 1843 Mary Virginia "Jennie" Wade, the only civilian killed during the Battle of Gettysburg, was born in the family home at 242 Baltimore Street. By 1850 Jennie's father, James, developed mental illness and was placed in the Adams County Almshouse in 1853. His wife Mary purchased a lot at what is now 49-51 Breckenridge Street and soon thereafter built a one-story home where the family lived during the battle. Jennie worked as a seamstress with her mother in this home. On July 3rd, 1863, she was at her sister's residence on Baltimore Street baking biscuits and bread for the Union troops. At the age of 20, she was struck by a stray bullet and was killed instantly. Mary Wade lived here until her death in 1892.

