



# The Gettysburg Quarterly

## Grand Opening for Gettysburg's New Museum and Visitor Center



A celebratory groundbreaking took place in June 2005. Photo by James Robinson, *Evening Sun*.

Phase one of the construction was the restoration of historic Guinn Run, a stream that runs through the museum site.



Supervisory Park Ranger Clyde Bell looks at the work. During the operations of Fantasyland, a privately operated children's storybook park, Guinn Run had been dammed to create a paddle boat pond. The Gettysburg Foundation restored the historic stream and protected wetlands on the site.

Gettysburg National Military Park and the Gettysburg Foundation are planning a multi-day Grand Opening celebration for the new Museum and Visitor Center on September 26-28, with gala events, a ceremonial ribbon cutting, educational programs, special tours, and more. The fully conserved Gettysburg Cyclorama painting premieres during the grand opening, fresh from a five-year, \$15 million conservation effort.

During the celebration, one of only five known manuscripts of the Gettysburg Address will be on display in the Museum and Visitor Center on loan from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Ill. Known as the Everett copy, the manuscript that will travel to Gettysburg was given by Lincoln to Edward Everett, the orator whose two-hour speech preceded his Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863. It is the third of the five known manuscripts, and the first to include the words "under God" in the final sentence that calls for a "new birth of freedom." The manuscript of the Address, along with the rest of the volume that Everett assembled, will be on display in the Gilder Lehrman Institute Special Exhibits Gallery during the museum's regular hours of operation, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., beginning Friday, September 26 through Sunday, September 28.

The new Museum brings to life the most extensive Civil War collections in the National Park Service through exhibits, interactive, and hands-on experiences that immerse visitors in the story of the Battle of Gettysburg and the Civil War. It features a new park Visitor Center, the 24,000 square foot *Gettysburg Museum of the American Civil War*, a new gallery to display the restored Cyclorama Painting, two theaters for a new 22-minute film, "A New Birth of



*Above Left:* In September 2006, the interior walls of what would become the Cyclorama Painting gallery are already forming in the photo. Because the painting had to be moved into the new building as early in the project as possible, the gallery was completed before the rest of the building. *Above Middle:* Dru Anne Neil of the Gettysburg Foundation led reporters to the top of the heap for a construction briefing in September 2006. *Above Right:* Gettysburg Foundation President Bob Wilburn and Park Ranger Greg Coco get a look at the site during a hard hat tour in May 2007.





*Above:* Museum Specialist Paul Shevchuk with a patriotic apron made during the Civil War - one of the artifacts that was conserved at the National Park Service Harpers Ferry Center prior to going on display in the new Museum.



*Right:* Supervisor of Museum Services Greg Goodell wheeling the door to John Brown's prison cell just before its installation into the new exhibits.

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Freedom,” curatorial space, a park library, office space, classrooms, a Refreshment Saloon, and a museum bookstore.

The Museum inspires visitors to learn more about the battle’s significance in American history, and to draw connections between the events that occurred here and what is happening in their lives today. In addition to the new Museum and Visitor Center, the Battlefield itself is undergoing a multi-year, multi-million dollar rehabilitation to restore its historic integrity and create a sustainable environment by improving its wetlands, water quality and wildlife habitat.

The Gettysburg Foundation will fund and manage the demolition of outdated facilities located on Cemetery Ridge, as well as the rehabilitation of the Union battle line on the site, to be completed in 2009.

For more information go to [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org) or [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett).



*Above:* Painting conservators put final touches onto the massive 1884 oil painting of Pickett's Charge known as the Gettysburg Cyclorama.



*Left:* Gettysburg NMP Superintendent John Latschar and Gettysburg Foundation President Bob Wilburn present a gift basket to Jamillah Jimenez-Hake of Marietta County, Pennsylvania, the first visitor to the new Museum and Visitor Center, during the soft opening in April 2008.





*Top Left:* Gettysburg Foundation President Bob Wilburn, left, and Gettysburg NMP Superintendent John Latschar on the first day of operations of the new Museum and Visitor Center in April 2008.

*Below:* Taylor Studios of Rantoul, Ill., installed the diorama in the foreground of the Cyclorama painting in August 2008. Gettysburg Foundation photo.



*Bottom:* Tens of thousands of visitors flock to the new Museum galleries.



Gettysburg National Military Park, established in 1895, is the site of the great Civil War battle that repulsed the second Confederate invasion of the North. The mission of the National Park Service at Gettysburg is to preserve and protect the resources associated with the battle of Gettysburg and the Soldiers' National Cemetery and provide an understanding of the events that occurred there within the context of American history.

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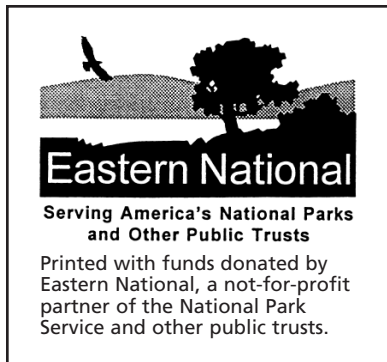
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# The David Wills House at Gettysburg National Military Park

In honor of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday on February 12, 2009, the David Wills House in downtown Gettysburg will celebrate its Grand Opening, offering visitors a world-class museum experience that tells the story of Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address. Grand Opening events will take place from February 12 - 16, 2009.

David Wills' home was not just the center of Gettysburg — it was the center of the immense clean-up process after the Battle of Gettysburg and where President Lincoln put the finishing touches on the Gettysburg Address. The speech transformed Gettysburg's community from a place of devastation to the symbol of our nation's new birth of freedom.

The museum features six galleries, including two rooms restored to their 1863 appearance: Wills' office as he received letters from families looking for loved ones after the battle and began planning for the cemetery and its dedication; and the bedroom where Lincoln stayed and prepared to deliver the Gettysburg Address.



Main Street Gettysburg will operate the museum, as an official partner with Gettysburg National Military Park. The property is on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information go to [www.mainstreetgettysburg.org](http://www.mainstreetgettysburg.org) or [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett).

Artist rendering of the David Wills House, courtesy of Zavos Architecture & Design, LLC.